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POLL VIOLENCE

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Crew must be allowed to operate unhindered

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Confident Sunrisers take on Knight Riders

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'Urban apathy' drives down polling to 60.4%

EC flags low turnout in Mumbai, Thane, Nashik, Lucknow; Maharashtra records lowest turnout in Phase 5 at 54.33%; West Bengal, where violence broke out in many constituencies, logged 76.05%

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The fifth phase of the Lok Sabha election on Monday saw a 60.48% voter turnout till 11.50 p.m., amid reports of minor incidents of violence from West Bengal.

Maharashtra recorded the lowest turnout at 54.33% this time, while West Bengal saw the highest at 76.05%.

The voting percentage in Bihar was 54.85, Jharkhand 63.09, Odisha 69.34, Uttar Pradesh 57.79 and Ladakh 69.62.

The Election Commission (EC) said in a statement that "parliamentary constituencies in various cities such as Mumbai, Thane, Nashik and Lucknow continued the trend of urban apathy as noticed in last Lok Sabha election in 2019." With this phase, polling has ended in all 48 seats of Maharashtra.

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Patient wait: People wait to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha election in Saran of Bihar on Monday. PTI

Baramulla logs 58.17% polling

Peerzada Ashiq
BARAMULLA

The Baramulla Lok Sabha seat in Kashmir Valley logged a poll percentage of 58.17 by 11.50 p.m. on Monday, breaking its record of 46.65% in 1996.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 11

Helicopter crash kills Iran President, Foreign Minister

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian were confirmed dead on Monday after search and rescue teams found their crashed helicopter in a fog-shrouded mountain region, sparking mourning in the Islamic Republic.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared five days of mourning and assigned Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber, 68, to assume interim duties ahead of elections which will be held on June 28.

Earlier on Monday, state TV announced that "the servant of the Iranian nation, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, has achieved the highest level of martyrdom" and broadcast pictures from Raisi's life as a voice recited the Koran.

Condolences flooded in from Palestinian militant group Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Syria, all members of the so-called Axis of Resistance against Israel and its allies, at a time of high West Asia tensions over the Gaza war.

Mr. Khamenei had urged Iranians on Sunday, as the search was still ongoing, to "not worry" about the leadership of the country, saying "there will be no disruption in the country's work".

Iran's one-time top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri was appointed Acting Foreign Minister.

A black flag was hoisted at a major Shia shrine in the city of Qom as a sign of mourning for Raisi, whom many had considered a favourite to one day succeed the Supreme Leader.

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A HARDLINE CLERIC
» PAGE 14

Rescue team members recover the body of a victim from the helicopter crash site in Varzaghan of Iran on Monday. AFP

NEARBY

Cabs to now pay entry fee at KIA's arrival lounge

BENGALURU
Cab drivers and families and friends of passengers who went to KIA on Monday were taken aback to see hefty "stay and overstay charges" levied at the arrival lounge. The fee was introduced on Monday. » Page 3

Congress will win at least 15 Lok Sabha seats: CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the Congress would win at least 15 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the State. The results will be declared on June 4. » Page 4

4 Sri Lankan nationals with 'IS links' held in Ahmedabad

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arrested four Sri Lankan nationals allegedly linked with the Islamic State (IS) at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel Airport here on Monday.

The accused, Mohammad Nusrat, 35, Mohammad Faarukh, 35, Mohammad Nafran, 27, and Mohammad Rasdeen, 43, took a flight from Colombo and reached Chennai in the early hours of Sunday, Director-General of Police Vikas Sahay said. From Chennai, they took another flight to Ahmedabad, where they landed around 8 p.m. on Sunday, he said.

They were nabbed at the airport here when they were waiting for their Pakistani handler. The ATS officials have taken them into custody and interrogation is under way.

Mr. Sahay said the men travelled to India to carry out terror activities at the behest of the IS. They told investigators that they were earlier associated with the banned Sri Lankan radical militant outfit, National Thowheeth Jamath.

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Class 5, 8, 9 students to be promoted based on midterm exam results

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Students of classes 5, 8, and 9 of schools affiliated with the State Board who wrote the Summative Assessment 2 (SA 2 Board Exam) this year will be assessed and promoted based on their marks obtained in the four Formative Assessment (FA Tests) and Summative Assessment 1 (SA 1 Midterm Exam) at the class level in 2023-24.

This order comes even as a stay order on the results of these board exams, which the Supreme Court struck down, continues. B.B. Cauvery, Commissioner of Public Instruction, issued a circular in this regard on Monday (May 20).

'Students' interests'

Government sources said this decision was taken in consultation with legal experts to protect the interests of the students.

The State government conducted the board exams for classes 5, 8, 9 and 11 students in March and April 2024.

A total of 28,14,104 students took the examination.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

U.K. court allows WikiLeaks founder Assange to appeal extradition to U.S.

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. High Court on Monday granted WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange a reprieve by allowing him to appeal his extradition to the United States.

The 52-year-old Australian has been charged on multiple counts for publishing sensitive military and diplomatic cables in 2010 and violating the U.S.'s Espionage Act. The U.S. has argued that lives were put at risk because the leaked documents contained unredacted names.

In May, the court cleared the extradition conditional on the U.S. providing two assurances: one, the death penalty would not be applied in Mr. Assange's case and two, Mr. Assange would be allowed to rely on the First Amendment (i.e., free speech rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution) during his trial.

In a short court session on Monday, two judges ruled that the U.S. government had not met the requirements.

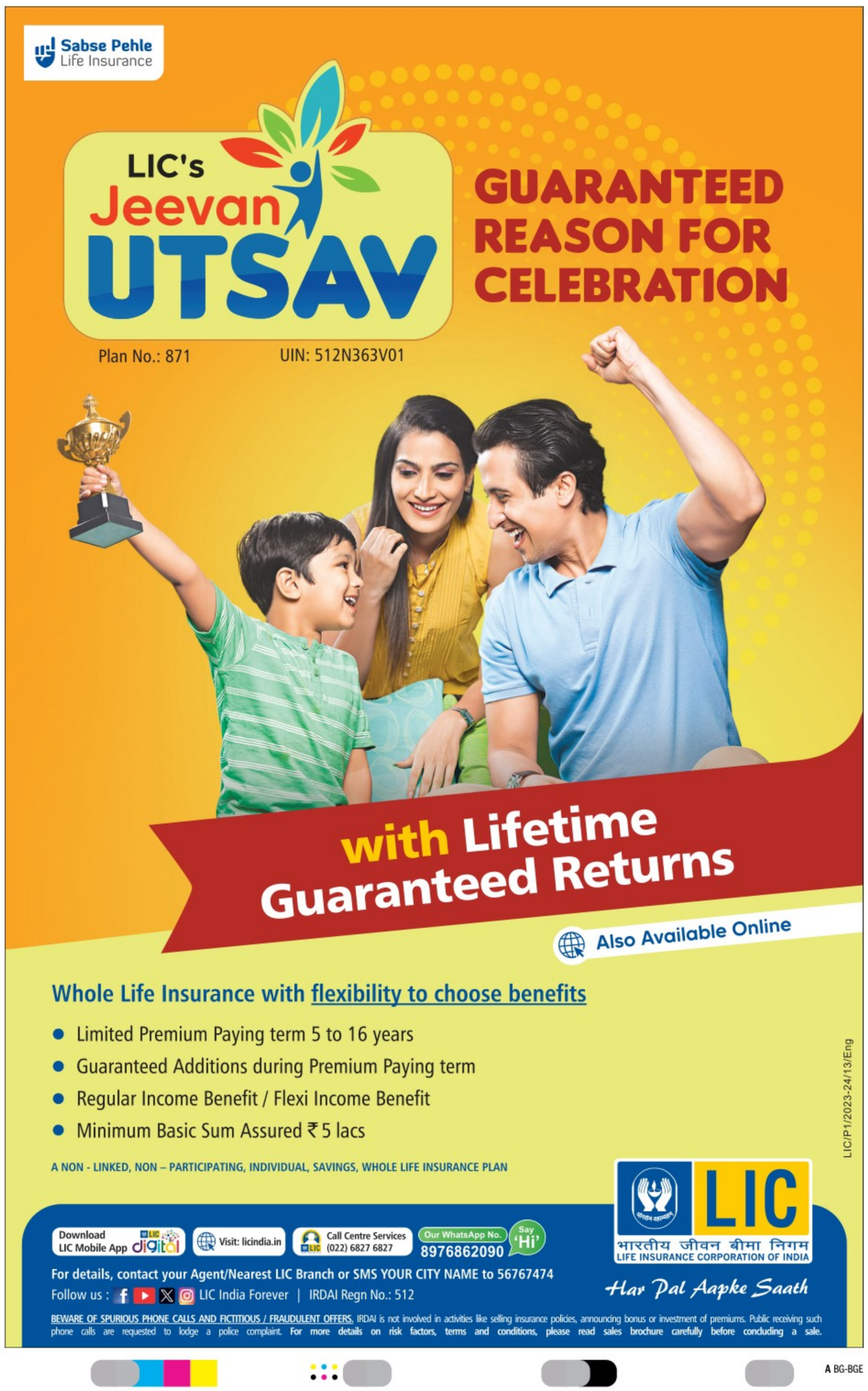
Specifically, in April, the U.S. government had said Mr. Assange "will have the ability to raise and seek to rely upon" the First Amendment but whether that would apply to a non-U.S. national would be up to the courts. Last week, his lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, had called that a "non-assurance".

A crowd that had gathered outside the court cheered as it heard the outcome of the legal proceedings. Addressing the crowd, Mr. Assange's wife, Stella, described the U.S. arguments as "trying to paint lipstick on a pig" and the case as an "attack on journalists everywhere".

"How long can this go on for?" she said, making a case for her family to be reunited. Mr. Assange has been held at the high-security Belmarsh prison since 2019.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Public backing: A protester stands outside the High Court in London on Monday seeking the release of Julian Assange. AP



A BG-BGE

Velavan progressing steadily, both on and off the court

He reveals that he has been working with a mental conditioning coach, Price, for many months now and attributes his growth to incorporating techniques such as meditation and visualisation into his daily routine

M. VEDHAN & GETTY IMAGES

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Velavan Senthilkumar won the Batch Open in Paris by the end of last month and subsequently reached his career-best singles ranking of 55 in the PSA men's singles World rankings. On Wednesday (May 15), he won the men's doubles title with his partner Abhay Singh at the HCL National doubles squash championship.

Last year, he had his first and the best year as a full-time professional squash player. He began 2023 from outside 200 in the rankings and had risen to No. 66 in November, courtesy of four PSA titles.

One striking aspect of his game last year was that he'd been nerveless in crunch moments or periods that enabled him to manage come-from-behind victories.

For instance, he rallied from two games down to put it across Miles Jenkins of England, 11-13, 12-14, 11-7, 12-10, 11-6, in the 69-minute quarterfinal of the Gibraltar Open he won in July. And playing the defending champion Abhay Singh in the final, he saved two game points from 8-10 down to make it 10-all before clinching the third game 12-10 and thus the match, 12-10, 11-3, 12-10, to win his maiden singles National title in November.

Speaking after that win, he had attributed his progress to the incorporation of mental techniques such as meditation and visualisation into his daily routine.

"I think, a lot of meditation; just different techniques of meditation. It was like an everyday thing – in the morning and the evening. Probably 10 to 15 minutes. Probably, a bit of visualisation as well. I kind of visualise myself on court and how I play. It's just some visualisation techniques," he had said.

Asked if he would envisage taking on that particular opponent on matchdays, he said said: "Obviously. How I would see myself playing the match. Like, I would see myself playing the match from inside the court, and from outside the court from the spectators' point of view."

He also highlighted his staying-in-the-moment mindset for every point he plays.

"I would say that's something I've been working on – to be more present, and just focus on every single point rather than the outcome. I think that's kind of helped me to play each and every point the same way, irrespective of what the score is."

Velavan had also mentioned how his background in Psychology – he completed his Under-Graduate (UG) degree in Psychology from the Columbia University in the U.S. in 2022 – has also been beneficial to his performance. His understanding of the brain and how it works has helped him become more aware of his mental state in different situations.

"I mean, it's just more information. I kind of understood the brain better, I would say. And how it works. I would just say that it was easier for me to understand more about how my mind was in certain situations. I just felt like I could know. I was aware of it easier than usual. If I didn't do psychology, I might have taken more time to be aware of it. That way it's helpful," he said.

Speaking after the win on Wednesday, he revealed that he's been working with a mental coach, Paul Price. The Australian, a former World No. 4, has been working to enhance Velavan's mental resilience and overall performance by providing personalised strategies and support.

"I've been working with him probably since September and it's been really helpful. So, I speak with him before and during every tournament – before and after my match. I'm always in constant contact with him and that really helps a lot," said the 26-year-old.

A former professional player, Price has been able to provide guidance in navigating the emotional highs and lows that come with competitive sports.

"I feel like he really understands what a squash player goes through specifically in terms of dealing with a win and a loss. Sometimes, after a loss, you're just really low, and then there are some things that he's helped me navigate that works for me."

Personalised approach

Velavan works together with Price to find what specifically works for his liking. They employ the best techniques or routines that suit his individual needs and preferences.

"For example, there are certain things that I have, that I need to do during the day that helps me stay really calm. It's probably just like reading. I like to slow down time a little bit, because sometimes I just find myself in fast pace and just moving from one thing to the other.

"I just changed a lot of things in my everyday routine and that's really helped. We've together navigated what specifically works for me to my liking. Like, sometimes, movies; reading different types of books, just stuff like that. It takes my mind off a match or squash for a bit."

The reigning singles National champion mentioned that playing doubles requires a different type of training and said that he and Abhay specifically practise together before any doubles tournament.

"I enjoy playing doubles. It's a lot of fun. It's a lot of different angles. It's a whole different game from the singles and it does take a specific type of training.

"The more doubles you play, the better you are at it. Abhay and I, if we have a doubles tournament coming up, we just practise a little bit to get back our body language and get our minds into it – dealing with different angles and the width of the court."

He said that they both have a good on-court connection and boost each other's confidence during matches. "I'm a left-hander. So, both of us play forehand on both sides!" he added.

The pair, by virtue of having won the men's doubles National title, will represent India in the men's doubles category at the Asian doubles championships in July at Johor in Malaysia.

Speaking about their chances at the event, he said: "It's going to be hard for sure. But I also think we are a really good pair to have a chance at a medal at the Asian Doubles.

"Malaysia is going to be tough. And then, there is also Hong Kong. I think these two (will be tough competitors), off the top of my head."

THE GIST

- A striking aspect of Velavan's game last year was his come-from-behind victories as he kept his nerve in crunch situations
- He feels his background in Psychology has also helped his performance
- Velavan thinks his coach Price understands what a squash player goes through specifically in terms of dealing with a win and a loss

From Page One

Class 5, 8, 9 students to be promoted based on midterm exam results

However, the Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association (RUPSA) and the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools challenged the validity of the State notifications insisting on board examinations in the Supreme Court.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) declared the results of the classes 5, 8, and 9 exams just a few hours before the Supreme Court verdict on April 8, 2024. The Supreme Court passed an interim order and stayed the result. The class 11 result was announced at the beginning of March.

Many teachers have objected to this order by the DSEL. "It is illegal to promote students on the basis of FA 1, 2, 3, 4 and SA 1. The department is creating confusion among teachers, parents and students," a teacher said.

22 posh villas in Yelahanka flooded; notices to be issued

Deputy Chief Minister says BBMP will initiate action against those who encroached on drains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visiting rain-hit areas of Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

Anitha Krishnan, a resident of Northwood Villas, one of the upscale gated communities in Yelahanka, woke up in the wee hours of Sunday to see the water level in her posh villa rise as it was raining heavily outside. Residents of 22 villas in this community were unable to move out for more than 12 hours, the time the civic body took to drain out the flooded water from this community.

"It was a miracle that after 12 hours, the BBMP was able to drain out the flood water completely. Now, the civic body has kept pump sets on standby. These pump sets will be here until the BBMP lays a pipe to divert the water," she said.

Apart from Northwood Villas, Ramanashree Gardenia Layout nearby was also flooded.

Drains blocked

A senior BBMP official said the Northwood Villas were inundated as the stormwater drain was blocked so as not to let water into Puttenahalli Lake, which comes under the Forest Department. The developer of the private layout has also demolished part of the drain and sewage is also let in the same drain, the official said. "The volume of flooding was so high that it took the team 12 hours to pump the water out," he said.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who visited the area, said that the civic body will lay a pipeline to divert the water. "The water will be dumped on the other side of the Puttenahalli lake. As water is filled with sewage, the Forest Department will not agree to leave the water into the lake," he said.

Notice to developers

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar went on city rounds on Monday, visiting areas inundated due to recent rains, including Northwood Villas and Ramanashree Gardenia Layout. He directed civic officials to issue notices to developers of private layouts who have failed to provide basic amenities.

"In some private layouts like these, the water entered the villas as the developers have not provided infrastructure for the rainwater to flow. Rainwater and sewage water are released in the same line, and this has resulted in overflowing. Not providing adequate civic infrastructure is the fault of the developers, and this is now causing inconvenience to the buyers of these villas in such layouts. Hence, notices will be issued to them to fix the problem," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar further said the civic body would immediately initiate action against those who encroached on drains in the layouts, which were flooded in the recent rain. After visiting Ramanashree Gardenia Layout at Yelahanka, he said that two years back, there was no SWD there, and the civic body, which had taken up work to build a drain there, stopped work midway. "I have now directed the officials to resume the work to extend the drain further," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar also visited the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research to inspect work related to heightening the retention wall of an SWD. He said flooding of the institute will end after the completion of the work and directed officials to implement temporary measures until then.

New passageway opened at Majestic metro station

Aryan Bhatt
Parvati Nair
BENGALURU

The newly inaugurated passageway at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station Majestic.

The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station, the interchange hub on Monday inaugurated a new passageway to ease congestion and improve the commuter experience.

It connects platform 2 of the Purple Line with platforms 3 and 4 of the Green Line.

Shankar A.S., Executive Director (Operations and Maintenance) at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), said the new passageway would hopefully reduce congestion and help commuters switch between the lines more easily.

Congestion

"Hundreds of people deboard the trains on platforms 1 and 2 every 2 to 3 minutes, creating congestion. It takes about one minute to get off from those platforms to platforms 3 and 4, which are on another level. Many passengers used to miss their trains on platforms 3 and 4 due to this bottleneck, as there is only a pair of escalators and stairways."

"The new passage resolves this problem. Plans are also underway to construct a similar passageway to ease congestion on platform 1 as well," Aruna A.M., Section Engineer of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station, said. "Even though the passage might involve walking a little more, I don't mind it because I can now avoid the crowd at the escalator and stairway," said Uma K., who a daily commutes. Another commuter, Shreeya Nama, a student from Yeshwanthpur, said the crowd at Majestic was an issue, and hopefully, with the opening of the new passage, the commute will be faster.

CSK fans allege abuse, hooliganism by RCB fans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fans of Chennai Super King (CSK) have alleged hooliganism and harassment by their counterparts in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) after their recent match during the ongoing Indian Premiere League (IPL) tournament at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in the city on May 18. CSK team lost the match by 27 runs.

According to a witness, outside the stadium, RCB fans were allegedly mocking, heckling, abusing people in the yellow jersey representing the CSK team. The yellow caps worn by children, men and women were forcefully removed.

A witness, who spoke to *The Hindu*, claimed that when he, along with his friends, were walking out of the stadium, one woman was stopped by RCB fans, mocked and photographed.

In another instance, one person's yellow jersey was removed. Caps worn by children were removed and thrown away, he alleged. A CSK fan said, while RCB fans were entitled to celebrate the victory, the alleged hooliganism was not in the spirit of sportsmanship. "The safety of CSK fans is at risk if matches is held in Bengaluru in the future," he feared. He alleged that police simply watched the hooliganism without making any effort to stop the mischief.

An X handle, identified as Unpaired_electron, posted that he and his friends had a horrible experience even inside the stadium. "RCB fans were harassing us and we had to call the police. But the constable took ₹500 from them and left the place," the user claimed.

Another post on X by Annie Steve stated: "Feeling unsafe wearing the CSK jersey outside and around Chinnaswamy stadium. RCB fans (men) here are abusing and bullying every single person walking by. So many men out here are so drunk and abusing on face be it women or men."

Bengaluru police said they had not received any complaint from anyone alleging harassment.

Rave party raided, drugs seized, five arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A dog squad being pressed into service at a farm where a rave party was organised in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anti-narcotics wing officials of the Central Crime Branch raided a farmhouse in Electronics City where a rave party was allegedly underway on Sunday night and seized synthetic drugs.

Five people who organised the party under the banner "Sunset to Sunrise Victory" on the pretext of a birthday celebration were arrested. The raids followed complaints that the party overshot permissible time limits.

The police have recovered 15.5 grams of MDMA, 6.2 grams of cocaine and 6 grams of hydro ganja, five mobile phones and two vehicles, including a high-end car with a sticker that said "MLA, Andhra Pradesh".

According to the police, the party was allegedly organised by one Vasu at G.R. Farmhouse, owned by Gopal Reddy, a businessman. The arrested persons include the owner of the farmhouse, Reddy, the party organiser, Vasu, and three drug peddlers. Investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the drugs.

The party had over 100 guests, including men and women, models, Telugu film actors, software engineers, and business people from the city and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The police also detained many people who were suspected to be under the influence of narcotics and subjected them to medical examination.

Farewell function held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The farewell function in honour of outgoing students of B.E., B. Arch., M.Tech., M. Arch., MBA, and MCA of Ramaiah Institute of Technology was held on May 18.

The chief guest was P. Srihari Sastry, former Director of the Launch Vehicle Programme and RIT alumnus. In his address, he highlighted the contributions of ISRO scientists and told the students that they could achieve great heights in their careers through hard work and commitment.

A Mechanical Department student bagged the best outgoing student award for 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Publics are hereby notified that my clients **(1) Smt. ROOPA V,** D/o Late Pasupathy and **(2) Sri. B. Viswanatha,** S/o Bakkaish H.M, both R/o No. 447, HIG, 12th Main, 10th Cross, "A" Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, intended to purchase the house property, described in the schedule property. from its owners **Smt. MEGHA. P,** W/o Arjun S. Prakash, aged about 37 years, R/o No.2, "Vachana Nest" 11th Cross, ITI Layout, Papareddy Palya, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560 072. If any person got any right, title or interest over the schedule property please contact me along with documents, ***within 7 days*** from today, in case, if no claims are made within such date, it is presumed that no person have got right, except the person mentioned above, and my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property No. 538, LIG, BBMP Khatha No. 592/1470/538, situated at **"A-SECTOR" Ward No. 4, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-560 064,** measuring **East to West 40 Feet** and **North to South 30 Feet, in all 1200 square feet** comprising 4 floors of 539 square feet building and bounded on:

East by: KHB Property
West by: 30 feet Road
North by: House No.539
South by: House No. 537

Sd/-

N.D. ONKARAPPA, Advocate,
No.1619, 3rd Main Judicial Layout,
GKVK Post, Bengaluru-560 065.
Contact No. 9535679680,
ndonkarappa@gmail.com

Anjali murder will be probed by CID, says Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Amidst a continuing protest over the murder of Anjali Ambiger in Hubballi, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who visited the victim's family on Monday, announced in a press conference that like the Neha Hiremath case, this too would be handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for inquiry.

The Home Minister, who visited the residences of Anjali Ambiger and Neha Hiremath, made it clear in the press conference that already three police officials had been suspended on the charge of dereliction of duty in connection with the case.

Minor raped, blackmailed by shopkeeper

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old girl from West Bengal, who had come to the city with her parents, to work in a garbage segregation unit was allegedly drugged and raped by a shopkeeper in Thoobarahalli, Varthur, around a month ago. The accused allegedly also recorded the video of his act and started blackmailing her, seeking further sexual favours.

However, the victim and her family have now approached the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, alleging the police sided with the accused when they went to give a complaint on May 11 and, in turn, assaulted them. The accused, identified as Saiful Shah, and his friend also allegedly beat up the victim and threatened her family to return home and not press for a complaint, the complaint to KSHRC alleges. The Commission on Monday directed the Varthur Police to file a case and conduct a detailed probe.

The complaint alleges that the shopkeeper had raped the girl a month ago and had since then been blackmailing her with the video of the act, trying to force her to have sex with him again. The victim reportedly refused to buckle, and the accused allegedly circulated the videos on social media and shared them with his friends in the area.

Unable to bear harassment, when the victim's family approached the police, they alleged they were assaulted. "The accused not only beat us up but also offered us money to settle and return to our hometown. The video has even reached our family and friends at home. We have no place to go," one of the family members said. As they were assaulted, the girl's family is scared to return to their rented house in Labour Colony and are running from pillar to post seeking justice.

City-based social Activist R . Kaleemullah, who is helping the victim and family, said that this is the second such incident where a minor girl was abused in a week in these labour colonies. "Minor girls and women who migrate to the city to work in the unorganized sector, especially in garbage segregation units in and around the city, are exploited. The concerned authorities should initiate some steps to prevent such incidents and conduct awareness programmes," he said.

A senior police officer said that an FIR was registered in this regard on Monday following directions from SHRC, and a probe had been launched. "The victim was married in West Bengal and separated from her husband. She came to the city and is suspected of having an affair with the accused. The parents initially approached the police seeking action but did not want to file a complaint, stating that they wanted to take the victim back to their hometown. However, they approached the SHRC, which directed the jurisdictional police to register a complaint and investigate," the official said, in an attempt to defend police not filing an FIR.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 21	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:39
RISE	16:50 SET 04:00
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 22	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:40
RISE	17:42 SET 04:39
THURSDAY, MAY. 23	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:40
RISE	18:36 SET 05:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will comfortable. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Titan Eye+ launches 'Titan Initia' Progressive lenses at affordable prices : No eyewash, it's truly progressive

Titan Eye+, a leading name in the eyewear industry, announces the launch of 'Titan Initia' Progressive Lenses with great features like Anti-Reflection Coating, UV 400 Protection, Smooth Power Transition and Lenses that are Suitable for Driving. Through this, Titan Eye+ is set to redefine the standards of affordable progressive lenses by ensuring that new age designs and features are accessible to all. Along with this Customers can indulge in a wide range of fashionable frames. Similarly, multiple lens options like Anti-reflective lenses are also available.

In a stride to offer comprehensive solutions, Titan Eye+ has widened its offerings to include Boys & Girls Specs. These options ensure that eye health and fashion are available to every family member, making quality eyewear accessible to all. Customers can enjoy an expansive selection of frame designs, ranging from the classic full frame to the modern semi-rimless and minimalist rimless styles at affordable prices.

As we move ahead, celebrate the new beginnings, embrace the fusion of fashion, budget friendly, and quality eye care with Titan Eye+.

Explore these exceptional offer in person by visiting your nearest Titan Eye+ store or enjoy the convenience of shopping online at www.TitanEyePlus.com

The Janatha Co-operative Bank Financial Strength press meet addressed by President Sri C.L. Marigowda

The Janatha Co-operative Bank., Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, has successfully navigated through the financial challenges posed by COVID-19 and other factors over the past three years, during which it incurred a cumulative loss of Rs.8.34 crores. However, for the financial year ending on 31.03.2024, the Bank has achieved a remarkable turnaround by posting a profit of Rs.12.83 crores before taxes and other adjustments, marking a significant improvement of 253% compared to the previous year. Established in 1964 on 8th Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, the bank operates from its own building, which houses the administrative office and the Malleshwaram branch.

The bank has a total of seven branches located at: West of Chord Road (Near Modi Eye Hospital), Govindarajanagar (Near Basaveshwaranagar, Karnataka Housing Board Colony), Amarjyothinagar (Nagarbhavi Main Road, Maruthinagar) Sahakarnagar (Sahakarnagar), Hesaraghatta Main Road (M.E.I Layout), Sunkadakatte (Bharatnagar). Members and customers are encouraged to utilize the bank's facilities at these branches. The positive growth trajectory of the bank is largely attributed to the support and cooperation of its conscientious members and depositors.

Union Bank of India, Bengaluru has organized Mega Retail Loan Expo in Bengaluru City

Union Bank of India, one of the largest Public Sector Bank in the country organized a Mega Retail Loan Expo in Bengaluru City at Palace Ground near Makhri Circle. The Mega Retail Loan Expo was inaugurated by Shri Navneet Kumar, Zonal Head & General Manager, Bengaluru.

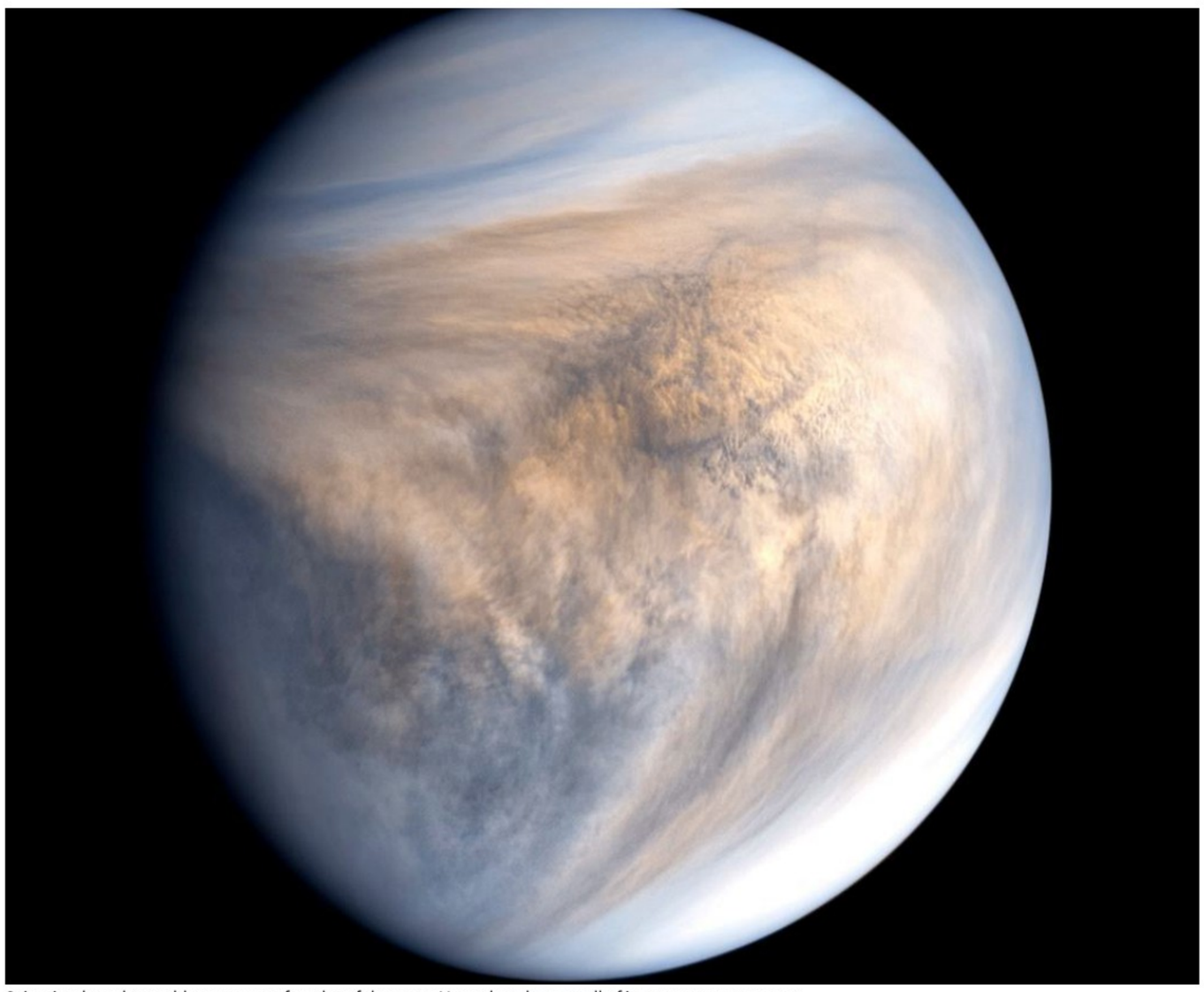
In his inaugural speech he said that Union Bank of India has organized the Retail Loan Expo to facilitate the financial needs of people to realise their dream/ aspiration to own a house and a car/ automobile and to give best education to their children. In this regard, for the convenience of people total 50 stalls were put up at the venue by eminent housing project developers, automobile dealers, Education consultants, and Bank's channel partners of Bengaluru City.

A large number of people attended the event and it was a grand success. During the event, hourly lucky draw with lucrative prizes was a pleasant surprise for the visitors. Union Bank of India mobilised a substantial amount of retail loan from this Mega Retail Expo. On this occasion Shri Venkata Sudheer Cheedella, Deputy Zonal Head, Mrs. V Madhavi, Deputy Zonal Head, Bengaluru, Shri Asim Kumar Pal, DGM & Regional Head, Bengaluru - South, Shri Rajender Kumar, DGM & Regional Head, Bengaluru-North, Shri J Mahesha, DGM & Regional Head, Bengaluru -East, other Bank executives and staff were present.

An overlooked molecule could solve the Venus water mystery

'That Venus is 100,000-times drier than earth is an anomaly that deserves an explanation. Is Venus abnormally dry? Is the earth abnormally wet? Depending on which one is the exception, the implications for planetary habitability are different,' a planetary scientist said

Karthik Vinod



Scientists have been able to account for a lot of the water Venus lost, but not all of it. KEVIN M. GILL (CC BY 2.0)

More than four billion years ago, Venus had enough water to cover its surface with an ocean 3 km deep. Today, the planet only has enough for this ocean to be 3 cm deep.

Scientists have been able to account for a lot of the water Venus lost in this time – but not all of it. Now, a team of scientists in the U.S. may have made a crucial advance.

The team's findings, reported in a paper in *Nature*, could plug a long-standing gap between the amount of water scientists expected Venus to have lost in the last 4.5 billion years and how much satellite observations say the planet has actually lost, which is a lot more.

"We have a pretty cool thing here," co-author Eryn Cangi, a planetary scientist at the University of Colorado Boulder, told *The Hindu*. "And it was time to release it into the community and see what they make of it."

"The bigger picture is about planetary habitability, and more specifically the history of water on Venus compared to the earth," Emmanuel Marcq, a planetary scientist at France's Laboratoire Atmosphères, Milieux, Observations Spatiales, who was not involved in the study, said.

Following the water trail

There are two reasons why Venus lost its water. The first is its hellish atmosphere – a result of its carbon dioxide-rich composition, which causes a strong greenhouse effect. The planet's surface is hotter than water's boiling point, simmering at 450 degrees C. So water can only exist as vapour in Venus' atmosphere.

Second, water was a victim of the planet's proximity to the Sun. The Sun's heat and ultraviolet radiation combined to shred water molecules into their constituent hydrogen and oxygen atoms in Venus's ionosphere – the upper region of the atmosphere, where charged atoms, molecules, and their electrons zoom around at high speeds.

However, we don't know the rates at which these processes happened. "There's a couple different theories about how [water levels] changed over time," Dr. Cangi said. The two theories broadly blame thermal and non-thermal processes for the water loss.

The thermal process refers to hydrodynamic escape. As the Sun heated Venus's outer atmosphere, it expanded, allowing hydrogen gas to leak to space. This escape lasted until the outer atmosphere sufficiently cooled, by about 2.5 billion years ago.

Dr. Cangi and her colleagues' research focused on how water loss occurs in the present day, specifically via a non-thermal process.

They focused on hydrogen atoms escaping Venus to space. Water levels drop as a result because the oxygen atoms left behind have fewer hydrogen atoms with which to form water.

However, estimates of the water-loss rate before Dr. Cangi's study suggested the planet had more water than what satellite observations indicated.

Dr. Cangi and her colleagues reported that the discrepancy vanished when they accounted for a chemical reaction that, according to a statement accompanying the paper, the scientific community had overlooked for more than five decades.

The key findings

Dr. Cangi first encountered the formyl cation (HCO^+) – a positively charged molecule – during her PhD days, when she was studying water loss in Mars' atmosphere.

Scientists have known for a while that HCO^+ molecules drive hydrogen escape on Mars. According to Dr. Cangi, the Venusian and the Martian upper atmospheres are similar, so she and her colleagues decided to model the same underlying reactions in Venus' ionosphere.On Venus, the team found that a particular reaction, called the HCO^+ dissociative recombination reaction (DR) occurs in bulk at an altitude of about 125 km, above the clouds made of sulphuric acid.

HCO^+ is created when a carbon monoxide molecule (CO) loses an electron while absorbing an hydrogen atom. DR is the reverse reaction: HCO^+ absorbs an electron and breaks up into CO and an hydrogen atom. These energetic hydrogen atoms then escape into space.

The team built models to simulate the influence of this reaction on the upper atmosphere, and found that it accelerated water decline once the hydrodynamic escape of hydrogen gas ended.

Specifically, the researchers found HCO^+ DR could have doubled the rate at which Venus lost water by hydrogen escape.

This means if Venus had oceans in the past, they could have lasted longer than

> The planet's surface is hotter than water's boiling point, simmering at 450 degrees C. So water can only exist as vapour in Venus's atmosphere

expected – because the faster rate of hydrogen escape means the planet could have lost more water in the same amount of time.

Further, the model predicted that the amount of water on Venus would have stayed roughly the same from nearly 2 billion years ago. This is because, as a non-thermal process, the HCO^+ DR reaction would've gone on indefinitely and drained all the water. (The thermal process was time-bound because the upper atmosphere returned to thermal equilibrium). Yet Venus still has some water today.According to Dr. Marcq, one way water could have been replenished was by comet impacts.

The missing molecule

However, we have no proof that HCO^+ ions existed in Venus's atmosphere in the first place – let alone proof that they participated in the HCO^+ DR process.

The authors wrote in their paper that past space missions had neglected looking for HCO^+ ions, and that orbiters sent to Venus couldn't decipher the chemical signatures of HCO^+ DR from afar. These missions instead paid attention to other important atmospheric chemical reactions that scientists were interested in. According to Dr. Cangi, there would have had to be a connection between HCO^+ DR and water loss on Venus for scientists to have shown interest.

This said, she said the team's analysis of data collected by the NASA Pioneer Venus orbiter (launched 1978) contained some indirect evidence of HCO^+ DR.

"By looking at the other molecules that are important in the chemistry to form it, we saw that those are present in an amount that would imply [HCO^+] should be there," Dr. Cangi said.

Future Venus missions

Dr. Marcq referred to a *Nature Astronomy* paper published in April in which scientists reported finding a signature of carbon ions escaping Venus in data collected by the BepiColombo spacecraft. "At least qualitatively, it seems to support the [HCO^+ DR] model," Dr. Marcq said. The quantitative evidence remains wanting.

Dr. Cangi implored scientists working on future Venus missions to look for HCO^+ in the planet's upper atmosphere. She referred to NASA's MAVEN mission to Mars as an example of a mission dedicated to probing the upper atmosphere. "If we had a similar mission to Venus, I think we could learn a lot."

Most upcoming Venus missions are focused on the lower atmosphere instead.

"The fact that Venus is [100,000-times] drier than the earth is ... an anomaly that deserves an explanation," Dr. Marcq said. "Is Venus abnormally dry? Is the earth abnormally wet? Depending on which one is the exception, the implications for planetary habitability are different."

(Karthik Vinod is an intern with The Hindu.)

The baobab lineage originated in Madagascar roughly 21 million years ago. REUTERS

The baobab's journey from Madagascar to Africa and Australia

Reuters

The baobab tree is a distinctive sight on the landscape. When its contorted branches are leafless during the dry season, they resemble jumbled roots emanating from a thick trunk, making it appear as if someone had yanked the tree from the ground, flipped it on its head, and jammed it back into the earth.

But the origins and history of the baobab, found in Madagascar and parts of Africa and Australia, have been something of a mystery. A new study has resolved this based on genomic analyses of all eight recognised species as well as ecological and geological data.

The baobab lineage originated in Madagascar roughly 21 million years ago and reached Africa and Australia sometime in the past 12 million years, the researchers found. Madagascar, an island off Africa's southeastern coast, is a biodiversity hot spot and home to unusual flora and fauna.

Two baobab lineages went extinct in Madagascar, but not before establishing themselves elsewhere, one in Africa and one in Australia, the study found.

The tale of how a tree crossed the Indian Ocean to put down roots in two distant destinations is dramatic. It appears baobab seed pods floated from

The dispersal to Australia was probably facilitated by the Indian Ocean gyre which likely picked up baobab seed pods as it moved past Madagascar

Madagascar to mainland Africa, located about 400 km to the west, and to Australia, situated more than nearly 7,000 km to the east.

"The plants almost certainly got to Africa and Australia floating on or with vegetation rafts," said botanist Tao Wan of the Wuhan Botanical Garden in China, one of the authors of the study published on May 14 in the journal Nature.

"The long-distance dispersal to Australia was probably facilitated by the Indian Ocean gyre, which is an oceanic current that circulates south past Madagascar, where it probably picked up baobab seed pods, before the current swings east to Australia, where it delivered the pods. The current then circulates north and then swings west past Mauritius and to Africa once again, where it completes the gyre," Dr. Wan added.

Baobabs, found in dry savannah habitats, provide food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife. Their fruits also provide nutrients and medicines for people, and the leaves are edible. The trees produce large, sweet-smelling flowers whose sugary nectar attracts nocturnal pollinators as well as two types of primates, lemurs in Madagascar and bush babies in Africa.

"They can reach huge dimensions ... in both height and diameter, and are reported to live for thousands of years. The root systems are also massive, which are considered to play an important ecological role, helping to slow down soil erosion and enabling nutrient recycling," plant geneticist and study co-author Ilia Leitch of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Condensed matter physics

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the assistant in Humphrey Davy's lab who, in 1823, liquefied all the gases known at the time excluding hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. In the post-industrial era, Davy was among the first scientists to deduce atoms were not indivisible by observing the physical properties of matter.

QUESTION 2

In 1900, German physicist ____ _____ tried to explain the path of an electron moving through solid metal. His model was quite imperfect but became the basis for early steps in the study of quantum mechanics by others. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

In the 1930s, Arnold Sommerfeld used quantum mechanics to solve many open problems. But his model couldn't explain the _____ effect. Here, a metal doped with a magnetic impurity counterintuitively causes the metal's resistance to increase as it approaches absolute zero. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

In 1980, Gerhard Dorda, Michael Pepper, and X discovered the quantum Hall effect. When a strong magnetic field is applied top-down on a cold, 2D sheet of electrons, an electric resistance arises across the sheet's breadth. And the resistance value can only increase or decrease in fixed steps. Name X, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1985.

QUESTION 5

A Bose-Einstein condensate is an exotic state of matter in which quantum phenomena, otherwise invisible to the naked eye, become visible. Name the three physicists who led two teams in 1995 to first produce it in the lab, later sharing a Nobel Prize for the feat.

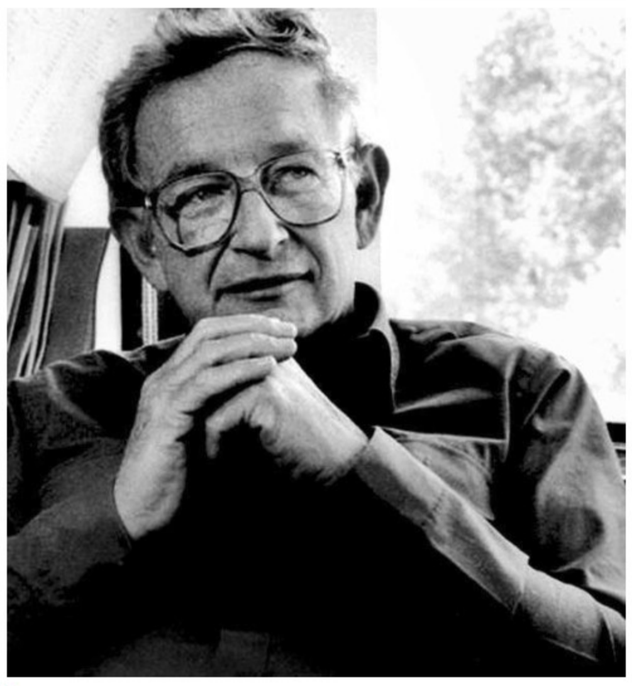
Answers to May 16 quiz:

1. The cycle the Sun completes after two solar cycles – **Ans: Hale cycle**
2. Small, dark patches the Sun develops as it nears the peak of a solar cycle – **Ans: Sunspots**
3. Astronomer for whom law relating location of sunspots on the Sun is named – **Ans: Gustav Spörer**
4. Process that produces the Sun's magnetic field – **Ans: Solar dynamo**
5. Name for period between 1645 and 1715 – **Ans: Maunder Minimum**

Visual: **Tachocline**

First contact: Vijayram Ganasala | K.N. Viswanathan | ViswanadhaRao Batchu | Saurav Agarwal | Rahul Raj

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in



Visual: Name this physicist who made several groundbreaking contributions to condensed-matter and particle physics.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Cabs have to now pay entry fee at KIA's arrival lounge

KIA levies 'stay and overstay charges' beginning Monday.
FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cab drivers and the families and friends of passengers who went to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to pick up passengers on Monday were taken aback to see hefty "stay and overstay charges" levied at the arrival lounge. The fee was introduced on Monday, and there was no prior notice.

According to a notice displayed on KIA premises, all commercial (yellow board) vehicles, including cabs, must pay an entry fee of ₹150 for up to seven minutes. If they exceed seven minutes, they will be charged ₹300.

Private (white board) vehicles have to pay a fee of ₹150 for staying between seven and 14 minutes.

White board vehicles have to pay a fee of ₹150 for staying between seven and 14 minutes

Buses incur an entry fee of ₹600, while tempo travellers will be charged ₹300. Both buses and tempo travellers are permitted to enter through Lane 3 at Terminal 1. According to Bangalore International Airport Ltd., the stay and overstay charges apply to vehicles coming to the pick-up lanes at Terminals 1 and 2. It is unclear whether cabs in dedicated taxi stands should also pay fee.

Tanveer Pasha, president of the Ola, Uber Drivers, and Owners Association, rued that this felt like "a daylight robbery". "This will affect both private vehicle owners and taxi drivers. There are a lot of parking charges that they collect already and now we have to pay for picking up passengers. Airport authorities should cease collecting such charges," he said.

CET results to be out only after II PU annual exam 2 results

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will consider the best of II PU annual exams 1 and 2 in science subjects to prepare the rank list for the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2024.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) will announce the result of the II PU annual exam 2 on May 21, Tuesday. The result will be announced at 3 pm on the board website, www.karresults.nic.in

Amid speculation that the CET 2024 results would be announced on Monday, KEA issued a clarification that the results would be announced only after the II PU Annual Exam 2 results and the results of the Agriculture Practical Test, which are expected on May 25.

"As per norms, the CET rank list needs to be prepared taking into account 50% of the marks secured in science subjects of II PU exams. This year, the II PU examination will be conducted thrice, and among them, the maximum marks secured in the first two exams will be considered for preparing the CET rank list. Given this, it is necessary to wait until the announcement of II PU annual exam 2 results are announced to prepare the rank list for CET," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA).

ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, (ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಮತ್ತು ಟಿ.ಡಿ.ಆರ್) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಅನೆಕ್ಸ್ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್–3. ಎನ್.ಆರ್.ಚೌಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–02

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಲ್ಎಕ್ಯೂ/ಸಿಆರ್/118/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2024

"ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013" ರ ಕಲಂ 11(1) ಮೇರೆಗೆ

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶದ Formation road from Hoodi Railway Station to Kumbena Agrahara via Sadaramangala as per RMP-2015 for the width of 18.00 Mtr and length of 2.8 Km. ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನತೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013 (2013ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:30)ಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–07–2019 ರಿಂದ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2019 (2019ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:16)ರ ಕಲಂ 10 (A) ರಡಿ ಮೂಲ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ–II & III ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಉಪಬಂಧಗಳನ್ನು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆರ್ಡಿ 33 ಎಕ್ಯೂಬಿ 2024, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.03.2024ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2024 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013 (2013ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:30)ರ ಕಲಂ 12 ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಚಲಾಯಿಸುವಂತೆ ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ) ಇವರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನೇಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮೋಜಣಿದಾರರಿಗಾಗಲಿ ಆಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವವರಿಗಾಗಲಿ ಯಾರು ಅಡ್ಡಿ ಮಾಡಕೂಡದೆಂದು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013(2013ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:30)ರ ಕಲಂ 11(1) ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿರುವ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ವಿಕ್ರಯಿಸುವ ಕ್ರಮ, ಭೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಡವಿಡುವ, ಅನುಭವಿಸುವ, ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳದಂತೆ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರಮ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಐತೀರ್ಮ ರಚಿಸುವಾಗ ಗಣನೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆರ್ಡಿ 33 ಎಕ್ಯೂಬಿ 2024 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.03.2024ರಂತೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲು ಮೂಲ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013ರ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ–II ರಡಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ನಿರ್ಧರಣಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ (SIA) ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ–IIIರ ಕಲಂ 10ನ್ನು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಿ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2013 (2013ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 30) ರ ಕಲಂ–15(1)ರ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡ 60 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ತದನಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡದೆ ವಿಲೇಗೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಒಂದು ನಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:208, ಎರಡನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಅನೆಕ್ಸ್–3 ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಬೃ.ಬೆಂ.ಮ.ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಇವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೂರ್ವ ಹೋಬಳಿ: ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜಪುರಂ ಗ್ರಾಮ: ಸಾದರಮಂಗಲ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು: ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ/ ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (ಪಹಣಿಯಂತೆ)	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು: ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಹೆಸರು (ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತೆಯಂತೆ)	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು: ಅನುಭವ–ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ	ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಖಾತಾ ನಂಬರ್	ಖಾತಾ ನಂಬರಿನ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಚ.ಮೀಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೊಳಪಡುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಚ.ಮೀಗಳಲ್ಲಿ: ಕೃಷಿ/ ಕೃಷಿ–ಯೇತರ	ವಿದ್ಯುಚ್	ಒಟ್ಟು	ತರಹೆ	ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ/ಸರಹದ್ದು: ಪೂ	ಪ	ಉ	ದ
1.	ಸ.ನಂ.2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ. ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಎಲ್.ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್	–	2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.533/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:6	111.48	111.48	–	111.48	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.15	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.7	ರಸ್ತೆ
2.	ಸ.ನಂ.2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ. ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಸಂದೀಪ್ ಬರ್ಮನ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ.ಆರ್. ಎನ್.ಬರ್ಮನ್	–	2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.533/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:15	111.48	111.48	–	111.48	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.6	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.14	ರಸ್ತೆ
3.	ಸ.ನಂ.2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ. ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಎನ್ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸು	–	2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.534/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:16	222.96	222.96	–	222.96	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.24	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.17	ರಸ್ತೆ
4.	ಸ.ನಂ.2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ. ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಎ ರಾಧಾಕೃಷ್ಣ	–	2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.534/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:17	111.48	106.21	–	106.21	ಎ.ಸಿ ಶೀಟ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.23	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.17ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.16
5.	ಸ.ನಂ.2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ. ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಡಿ. ಮಧುಸೂದನ ರಾವ್	–	2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.535/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:23 & 24	222.96	106.56	–	106.56	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.17	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ. 23ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.24
				2/4		222.96	222.96	–	222.96		ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.16	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.23	ರಸ್ತೆ
6.	ಸ.ನಂ.1/3 ಅಮ್ಮಯಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ಉ. ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಇತರರು	ಆಟ್ಟೂರಿ ಬಾಲ ಮುರಳಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣ	–	1/3	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.536/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:25	239.68	239.68	–	239.68	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.34	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.26	ರಸ್ತೆ
7.	ಸ.ನಂ.1/3 ಅಮ್ಮಯಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ಉ. ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಇತರರು ಸ. ನಂ 2/4 ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಕೋಂ ಲೇ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪೃಥ್ವೀರಾಜ್	ಎ ಅನ್ನಪೂರ್ಣ	–	1/3 & 2/4	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.536/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:26	222.96	76.61	–	76.61	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.33	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.26ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.25
8.	ಸ.ನಂ.1/3 ಅಮ್ಮಯ್ಯಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ಉ. ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಇತರರು	ಎಸ್.ಜೆ.ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್	–	1/3	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.538/1 ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:35	606.18	391.56	–	391.56	ಎ.ಸಿ ಶೀಟ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ	ರಸ್ತೆ	ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ. 36ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ರಸ್ತೆ
					ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ:36						ರಸ್ತೆ	ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ. 36ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂ.35
9.	ಫರ್ಜಾನ್ ಶಾ ಕೋಂ ಮಹಮದ್ ಇತರರು	ಸುಜಿತ್ ಎಂ	–	52/1	ಖಾತಾ ನಂ.454	0.10 ಗುಂ	323.75	–	323.75	ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ	ಸ. ನಂ. 50	ರಸ್ತೆ & ಸ.ನಂ. 52/1ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸ.ನಂ. 52/1ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ರಸ್ತೆ
10.	ಅನಿಚಿರಾವಕತ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ॥ ಮೇರಿ ವೆಂಚರ್ಸ್	–	–	52/10	459/1	2400	222.83	–	222.83	ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸಂ:CCC 856/2023 & CCC 857/2023 ರನ್ವಯ				
11.	ಅರ್ಜುನ್ ರಮೇಶ್ ಆದಿತ್ಯ ರಮೇಶ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ॥ ಮೇರಿ ವೆಂಚರ್ಸ್	–	–	52/7 &8	466/1	2400	445.66	–	445.66					
						ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಚ.ಮೀ			2581.74					

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Net addition in EPFO membership in the month of March

14.41 lakh. Approximately 11.80 lakh members exited and subsequently rejoined the EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation), according to a statement by the Ministry of Labour. PTI

Biden administration holds up the shipment of bombs

3,500 bombs. U.S. President Joe Biden said that the U.S. would not provide offensive weapons for a full-scale invasion of Rafah. However, it plans to continue with the sale of arms worth $1 billion. AP

The number of times the Nepal PM won the vote of confidence

4 In 18 months of power, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) continued to lead a coalition government amid political instability and frequent power battles between alliances. He received 157 votes in 275-member House of Representatives. PTI

Arrests made during domestic violence crackdown in Australia

554 The New South Wales police arrested and charged the state's worst domestic violence offenders over a four-day operation. This follows a spike in attacks on women, which has resulted in 28 fatalities this year. AFP

The increase in China's crude imports from Russia

30 in percentage. Russia continues being China's top oil supplier for a 12th month, as refiners continue to cash in discounted shipments. Supplies from Saudi Arabia fell a quarter on higher prices. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India-China consumption comparison

While both India and China have a large consumer base, will India's burgeoning consumer class with increased spending enhance its appeal to foreign businesses as a preferred destination over China?

ECONOMIC NOTES

Amit Kumar

In 2023, India surpassed China to become the world's most populous country. The development came against the backdrop of a declining birth rate (6.4 births per 1,000 people) and total fertility rate (-1%) in China. China also recorded a negative population growth rate for the first time in six decades. This means a rising dependency ratio, which is projected to increase over time. In contrast, India's population, despite reaching replacement levels (total fertility rate of 2.1), is expected to grow and peak around 2060.

These developments have significant consequences on domestic consumption in the two countries. Consequently, it becomes imperative to compare their consumption figures and strengths/weaknesses. A cross-comparison also assumes significance owing to the contrasting experiences of the two countries in their respective geopolitical landscapes.

How do the numbers compare?

Both India and China have a large consumer base. A consumer is anyone who spends more than $12 a day, as per the Purchasing Power Parity [PPP], 2017.

Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), which measures total consumption expenditure by households and non-profit institutions serving households on goods and services, serves as a useful proxy for consumer spending especially as income and consumption are concentrated within the consumer classes. The data reveals that as a percentage of GDP, India spends significantly more on consumption than China. While PFCE contributes more than 58% to India's GDP currently, it contributes only 38% to China's economy. Additionally, the final consumption, which also includes government consumption expenditure, constitutes 68% of the GDP for India and 53% for China. This implies that the government is a much bigger consumer in China than in India. Furthermore, while the percentage for India is steadily increasing, the same for China has been on a decline.

The aggregate data on PFCE reveals that despite China's economy being approximately five times bigger than that of India's, its PFCE amounts to relatively a lot less, only about 3.5 times that of India's. This not only means that consumption is a much larger contributor to India's GDP, but that India will equal China's consumption level at a relatively much lower GDP (-$10 trillion) as against China, which achieved the scale at approximately $17 trillion.

Secondly, despite the gloomy narrative around China's consumption, its PFCE has registered a significant increase in the past four years. Its PFCE remained rather constant in 2020 (pandemic year) before registering a huge uptick in 2021. On the other hand, India's figures have steadily increased from $1.64 trillion in 2018 to $2.10 trillion in 2022. Thirdly, in 2022, while China recorded a decline in its numbers – both aggregate ($6.6 trillion compared to $6.8 trillion) and per-capita ($4,730 compared to $4,809) – India witnessed marginal growth in both categories. Nevertheless, the difference in the expenditure between the two countries has widened from $3.8 trillion in 2018 to more than $4.5 trillion in 2022.

Finally, in terms of ratio, India's PFCE has closed the gap with China from ~3.3 to ~3.1. The significance of India closing the gap in terms of ratio here needs to be underlined. Usually, with a country like China that is operating on a huge base, even a marginal growth rate could inflate the aggregate numbers manifold. This would be true even if India, on the other hand, were adding expenditure at a relatively higher growth rate than China. But to beat China in terms of ratio would have required India to grow at a significantly higher rate than China, which it did. In terms of per capita PFCE, while the values mirror aggregate numbers, there is one exception. Even as India closed the gap in aggregate terms, China widened the per capita PFCE marginally from ~3.0 times of India in 2018 to ~3.1 in 2022. This could be explained by China's negative population growth in 2022.

Comparing the nominal PFCE numbers alone could sometimes lead to a distortion. This is because the nominal figures do not take into account the discrepancies between the cost of living that might exist. Consumption is not just about consumed value but also consumed volume. And nominal figures only give an idea of total consumption value – might not give an idea of the volume of goods and services consumed. Thus, to account for consumption by value, a comparison of PPP figures becomes imperative.

On comparing the PPP numbers, the gap between the consumption expenditure further closes down. In PPP terms, China's PFCE is approximately 1.5 times that of India. To put this in context, China's GDP (PPP) is approximately 2.5 times of India's. The relative gap between China and India widened from ~1.58 in 2018 to ~1.66 in 2020 and 2021, but 2022 witnessed India closing the gap to ~1.55.

However, in PPP terms, China witnessed a marginal increase of ~$0.7 trillion owing to improved yuan-dollar PPP exchange rates. On the other hand, India added a trillion dollars to its consumption expenditure (PPP) in 2022 despite a worsening exchange rate.

Expenditure by categories

India's consumption expenditure is characterised by higher spending on food, clothing, footwear, and transport and low spending on education, culture, recreation, and healthcare – typical of an underdeveloped or developing market.

China's consumption basket, on the other hand, represents a relatively developed market. Even as food and beverages constitute the biggest chunk of China's consumption, it is declining as a percentage of its total consumption expenditure – a sign of a maturing market. Additionally, it spends a substantially higher percentage of its expenditure on housing, white goods, recreation, education, and healthcare than India. To put things in context, in advanced economies like the U.S., Japan, EU, Germany and the U.K., expenditure on food isn't the highest bracket.

In aggregate terms, India spends around half of what China spends on food, transport and communication, and clothing and footwear. For India, which is a fifth of the Chinese economy and spends almost the same percentage (of the total expenditure) as China on these three sectors, the fact that its total expenditure in the above three categories is around half of China is quite significant. In fact, India spends a little over 50% of what China spends on transport and communication. (Note: India's data for 2022 were not available.)

Adding to the optimism is the fact that the real growth rate registered by each of these individual categories in India often outperformed even the nominal growth rates observed in China.

Whether India's consumer class with increased spending enhances its appeal to foreign businesses as a preferred destination over its competitors amidst the China+1 narrative remains to be seen.

Amit Kumar is a Research Analyst at Takshashila Institution. He tweets at am_i_t_kumar.

Who **spends** more?

Through these charts, the spending habits of India and China, two of the most populous countries in the world, are elaborated and analysed

Chart 1: Comparing India and China's consumer size (2022)

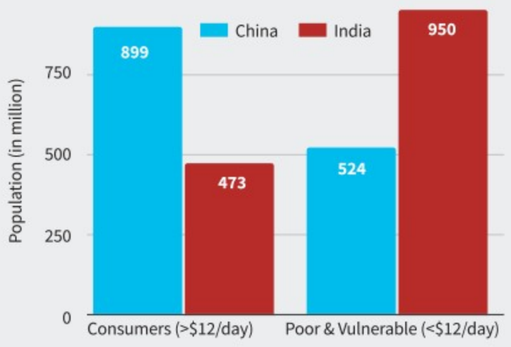


Chart 2: Contribution by region to global consumer class growth in 2024 (in million) in %

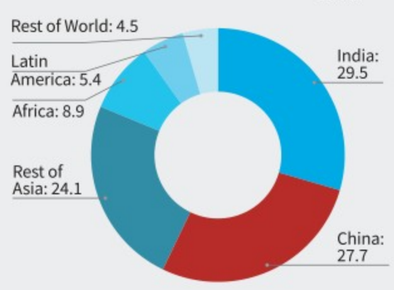


Chart 3: Addition to consumer base (in million)

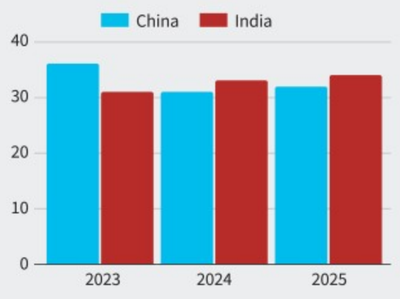


Chart 4: Consumers in 2030 (projections)

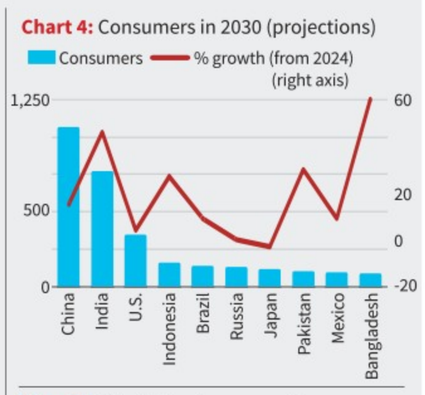


Chart 5: Private final consumption expenditure as % of GDP

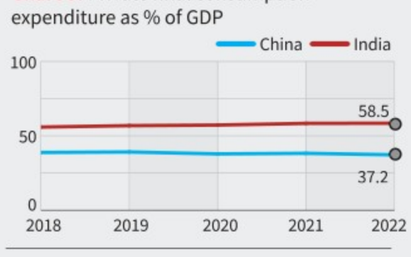


Chart 6: Final consumption expenditure as a % of GDP

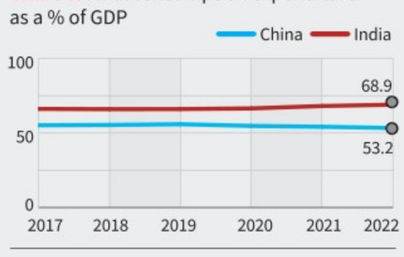


Chart 7: Private final consumption expenditure

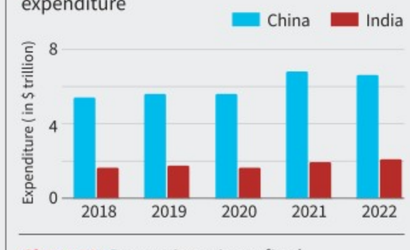


Chart 8: Per capita private final consumption expenditure

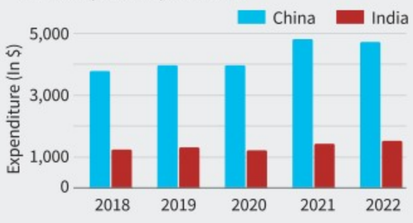


Chart 9: Private final consumption expenditure growth

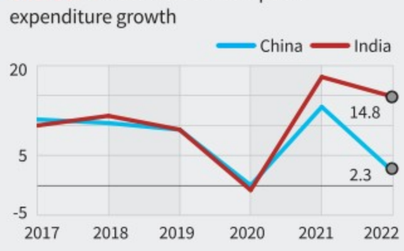


Chart 10: Per capita private final consumption expenditure growth

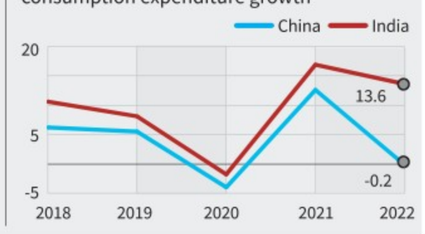


Chart 11: Private final consumption expenditure (PPP)

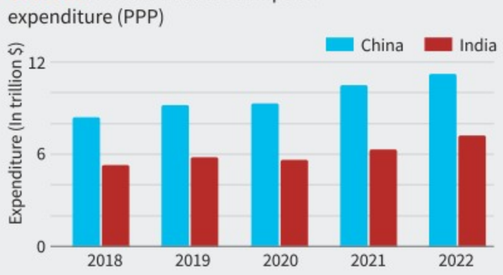


Chart 12: Per capita private final consumption expenditure (PPP)

Chart 13: China's expenditure in % by category (2022)

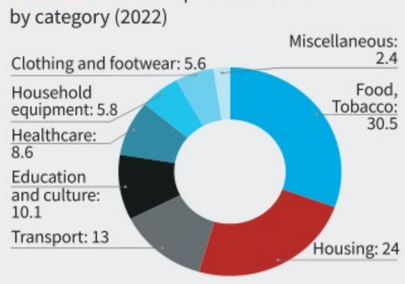
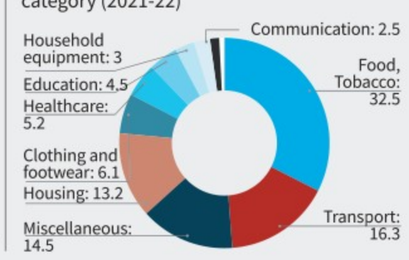


Chart 14: India's expenditure in % by category (2021-22)



Source: World Data Lab, Visual capitalist, MoSPI, NBS

THE GIST

- Both India and China have a large consumer base. A consumer is anyone who spends more than $12 a day, as per the Purchasing Power Parity [PPP], 2017.
- Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), which measures total consumption expenditure by households and non-profit institutions serving households on goods and services, serves as a useful proxy for consumer spending especially as income and consumption are concentrated within the consumer classes.
- India's consumption expenditure is characterised by higher spending on food, clothing, footwear, and transport and low spending on education, culture, recreation, and healthcare — typical of an underdeveloped or developing market.

Siddaramaiah's poser to JD(S) leaders in Prajwal Revanna case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> Even after being aware of the alleged sexual abuse case about six months ago, why did the party give ticket to Mr. Prajwal to contest LS elections from Hassan?
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday posed a series of questions to Janata Dal (Secular) leaders on the alleged multiple sexual abuse cases involving "absconding" Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna and said his government would not interfere in the probe being conducted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Replying to a query at a meet-the-press programme organised by the Press Club of Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah asked the JD (S) leaders "why BJP leader Devaraje Gowda in a written complaint to the party opposed the alliance with the JD (S)? Why did Mr. Prajwal leave the country on April 27, a day after the elections to the Lok Sabha? Why have victims filed complaints against Mr. Prajwal and why has the JD (S) suspended Mr. Prajwal from the party?"

"Even after being aware of the alleged sexual abuse case about six months ago, why did the party give ticket to Mr. Prajwal to contest elections from Hassan? Why did the BJP and JD (S) leaders campaign for Mr. Prajwal?", the Chief Minister asked JD (S) leaders.

The Chief Minister clarified that "there is no conspiracy" by the Congress government in the case related to Mr. Prajwal Revanna. A maid at Mr. Prajwal Revanna's residence filed a complaint against him. During the investigation, it was found that she was sexually abused, he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the SIT would conduct the probe and the law would take its own course.

Law and order

On the issue of law and order following the murder of two girls in Hubballi, he said a special court had been set up for speedy trial of the accused in the Neha Hiremath murder case. The police also arrested Girish alias Vishwa, 21, who killed Anjali Ambiger.

He said the number of murders had decreased compared to the previous year and "the well-being of society is more important than statistics". "We have issued strict instructions to the authorities to prevent crime and maintain law and order," he added.

Congress will win at least 15 Lok Sabha seats: CM

We are not claiming like BJP that we are going to emerge victorious in all 28 parliamentary constituencies, he says and makes it clear that there is no plan to effect a Cabinet reshuffle now

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the Congress would win at least 15 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

"We will win a minimum of 15 seats and the maximum will be 20 seats," he said while addressing a meet-the-press programme organised by the Press Club of Bengaluru to mark the completion of the first year of the Congress government in the State. "We are not claiming like the BJP that we are going to emerge victorious in all 28 parliamentary constituencies," he said.

The BJP and JD (S) formed an alliance and contested in 25 and three seats respectively. The results will be declared on June 4. On the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle after the Lok Sabha results, the Chief Minister said there was no such plan before him now. However, the decision would be taken as per the directions of the party high command, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Speculations are rife in political circles that the Cabinet would be reshuffled based on the performance of the party in in different constituencies the Lok Sabha elections.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meet-the-press programme in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Earlier, the Chief Minister spelled out the government's one-year achievements and said all the five guarantees had been implemented as promised by the party in its poll manifesto in 2023. The government would continue all the five guarantees for the full five-year term. "There is no question of stopping them," he said.

The government had stated that close to 4.6 crore people had been receiving benefits under the guarantees.

Each family had been receiving benefits of ₹60,000 per year.

Under the Shakti programme, women had been travelling for free in government buses to pilgrimage centres and also for visiting relatives. The government had been crediting each woman head of households ₹2,000 per month under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme and many women used the money to purchase gold, refrigerators, ceiling fans, and other household items, the Chief Minister said.

A sum of ₹36,000 crore had been spent on these schemes in 2023-24 and ₹52,000 crore had been allocated in 2024-25 in the State Budget for them, he pointed out. No development work had been stalled as alleged by the BJP and JD (S), he claimed.

Muslim quota

On the allegation that the State government had taken away some percentage of reservation from OBCs and given it to Muslims, he said Muslims had been given 4 per cent reservation in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions based on the Chinnappa Reddy Commission recommendations since 1994.

The Basavaraj Bommai government had withdrawn the reservation given to Muslims to increase the quota of Lingayats and Vokkaligas. But the Bommai government in an affidavit in the Supreme Court maintained that it had not scrapped the reservation for Muslims. The Muslim quota (4%) continued in the State, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been levelling false charges against the Congress government on providing quota for Muslims to secure votes of the Hindus, Mr. Siddaramaiah charged.

BJP: CM must quit for govt.'s 'lacklustre' show in last one year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP attacked the Congress government on the occasion of its first anniversary by terming its achievement in the last one year as "zero" and demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the "lacklustre" performance.

Addressing a press conference, BJP State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress government had not only emptied the State treasury but had also turned the state into a safe haven for murderers. They demanded that the Governor dismiss the government if the Chief Minister did not resign.

Mr. Vijayendra alleged that not even a single development work had been launched in the State in the last one year.

He said there were huge expectations from the Congress government with respect to development following its thumping majority and the tall claims of its leaders about development. However, they had now been turned false, he maintained.

Though the Chief Minister and Ministers were talking about their achievements, common people were confused as no development was visible to them, he said.

Arguing that implementation of guarantee schemes alone would not lead to development, he alleged the government had failed to handle its responsibilities during drought.

Accusing the government of being indifferent towards the problems of farmers, he said it had failed to either waive crop loans or compensate crop losses though 692 farmers had committed suicide of late.

He sarcastically remarked that the only achievement of the Congress government was to get into a collision course with the Centre, and accused the State government of trying to cover up its failures by blaming the Union government.

'35,471 files pending'

Meanwhile, JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy alleged that 35,471 files had not been cleared in eight major departments and wondered if this was an achievement.

He alleged that the government was celebrating its first anniversary even as farmers were suffering as the Centre's crop compensation given to them was being adjusted by banks against their loans.

Revanna gets bail in sexual abuse case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Janata Dal (S) leader and former Minister H.D. Revanna was granted bail in the sexual harassment case registered against him in Holenarsipur Town police station on April 28, on Monday.

The Special Court for Elected Representatives, Bengaluru, which had been hearing his bail plea had given him interim bail till Monday, on Friday. The court gave him bail in the case on Monday. It directed Mr. Revanna to deposit ₹5 lakh and provide two sureties.

Mr. Revanna was booked for sexual harassment under Section 354 A and 354 D of the Indian Penal Code on April 28, based on a complaint by a former domestic help in their house. Both Mr. Revanna and his son "absconding" Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna were accused in the case.

Mr. Revanna was arrested in an abduction case by the Special Investigation Team, probing the alleged multiple instances of sex abuse by Mr. Prajwal Revanna, and he was granted bail by the same special court on May 13.

HDK urges Prajwal to return home within 48 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Prajwal Revanna sexual abuse case taking new twists, JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday appealed to the Hassan MP, who is his nephew, to return and subject himself to the legal process. This is the first time that such an appeal has been made by the family.

Addressing presspersons a day after another audio clip – a purported conversation between former MP L.R. Shivarame Gowda and BJP leader Devaraje Gowda – went viral, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "If you have any respect for our family and for our elders (referring to his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda), I appeal to you through the media to return from whichever country you are in and cooperate with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the probe. There should be no fear. The law of this land will take its own course. How long can this hide-and-seek game be played? I appeal to you with folded hands to surrender within 24 to 48 hours."

"I wanted to convey this through my father but am doing it on his behalf. He (Mr. Deve Gowda) has extended all his support for Mr. Prajwal Revanna to grow in politics. If Mr. Prajwal Revanna wants to bring any respect to his grandfather and party workers, he should come back to India," Mr Kumaraswamy stated.

H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I apologise to the victims of this scandal. I can understand their pain. Who pushed them into this situation? Many similar cases have occurred in the past, although their magnitude might be less. This is a shameful episode and it makes all of us hang our heads in shame," he said.

Pointing out that the Congress government was demanding that he bring Mr. Prajwal Revanna back to India, the former Chief Minister said: "When I was not aware about his whereabouts when he was in Karnataka, how will I know where he is when he is not in the country?"

Hitting back at the ruling party, he said: "Let the Congress make hundreds of attempts to target my family. My party workers have given me the strength to fight. This episode began the day before polling. If I had known about the scandal earlier, I would not have let Mr. Prajwal Revanna leave the country," he said. "In such cases, people tend to act based on their lawyers' advice. We did not ask him to go. The SIT could have given him seven days to appear when he sought time," he said.

Asserting that Mr. Deve Gowda was pained by this episode, he said that his father wanted to resign as member of the Rajya Sabha.

"I stopped him from doing so. Why should he resign for a crime done by someone? All this is being done to target our family and destroy the JD(S)," he said.

Meanwhile, JD (S) workers staged a protest in Bengaluru against Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and Mr. Shivarame Gowda.

'Govt. is tapping phones of HDD family members'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday accused the State government of tapping the phones of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family members in connection with the alleged sexual abuse case.

"Our phones are being tapped. The phones of 45 people in my close circle are also being tapped. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar knows everything about what I speak on the phone. If I switch to a new phone it can also be tapped within 24 hours. Phones of all members of my family are being tapped," the former Chief Minister alleged.

Referring to Mr. Shivakumar as 'CD Shivu', Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that the Congress leader was targeting his family because he had exposed several illegalities committed by him.

"Why did you (Mr. Shivakumar) distribute the pen drives? Was it to provide justice to the families of the victims or was it to push them to the streets?" he asked. He alleged that Karnataka DGP Alok Mohan was also targeting his family as his government did not appoint him as the Police Commissioner of Bengaluru when he (Mr. Kumaraswamy) was the Chief Minister.

DKS denies charges

Dismissing Mr. Kumaraswamy's allegations, Mr. Shivakumar said Mr. Kumaraswamy and his brother H.D. Revanna were not terrorists to warrant such an action. "The government taps phones of terrorists with due processes. There is no need to tap the phones of political leaders in the State. They are making these allegations for publicity," he told mediapersons.

Asked about Mr. Kumarswamy's allegation of his hand in the release of the pen drive, the Deputy Chief Minister said he had nothing to do with the pen drive case.

"They do not get sleep if they do not mention my name every now and then. Mr. Kumaraswamy himself has said that one shall reap what he sows. The law will take its course," he said.

SIT writes to External Affairs Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the alleged multiple instances of sexual abuse by "absconding" Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, has now written to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), seeking cancellation of his diplomatic passport.

This comes two days after the Special Court for Elected Representatives, Bengaluru, issued an arrest warrant against him in a rape case registered by a former domestic help in their house on April 28.

Following allegations of sexual abuse, Mr. Prajwal Revanna flew to Germany from Bengaluru on April 27. A Blue Corner notice against him issued by the Interpol to its 196-member countries seeking his current location, hasn't got any response yet. He is known to have been travelling across Europe with his diplomatic passport.

It may be recalled that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 1, seeking his intervention to cancel Mr. Prajwal Revanna's diplomatic passport, so that he is forced to return home and face the full force of law.

However, his passport has not been revoked till now, citing legal issues. Now that an arrest warrant has been issued against him on Saturday, it provides sufficient grounds to revoke his passport, according to sources.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML,
1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/Corr- 01 /24-25 Date:20.05.2024

CORRIGENDUM- 1

Sub: Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification. **Ref:** 1.This office Tender Notification No DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/01/23-24, Dated: **15.03.2024. 2.** Secretariat of the Election Commission of India letter No:437/KT-HP/2024, Dated: **16.05.2024.**
As per the above subject and references, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is updated with reference (2). The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.

Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl. No.		As per tender notification	Updated dates as below
1.	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	On **15.04.2024** up-to **16:00 hrs.**	On **07.06.2024** up-to **16:00 hrs.**
2.	Pre bid meeting date and time	On **27.03.2024** up-to **15:00 hrs.**	On **27.05.2024** at **15:00 hrs.**
3.	Opening of tender date and time	On **16.04.2024** up-to **16:30 hrs.**	On **10.06.2024** after **16:30 hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/087/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division,
2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagar Main Road,
Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru - 560032.

No: EE/HBL/TEND/01/2024-25 Date: 20-05-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BBMP for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 or KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
	Construction of RCC Drains below Wards
1	4th Cross in Geddalahalli in Ward No. 61, Radhakrishna Temple (Old Ward No. 18) (SCSP / TSP Works). **(Call-2) (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,850.00**
2	2nd and 3rd Cross in Geddalahalli in Ward No. 61, Radhakrishna Temple (Old Ward No. 18) (SCSP / TSP Works). **(Call-2) (ST) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,850.00**
3	6th Cross in Geddalahalli in Ward No. 61, Radhakrishna Temple (Old Ward No. 18) (SCSP / TSP Works). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
4	5th Cross in Geddalahalli in Ward No. 61, Radhakrishna Temple (Old Ward No. 18) (SCSP / TSP Works). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
	Comprehensive Developments and Improvements to Roads and Drains below Wards
5	Manjunatha Layout in Ward No. 62, Sanjayanagar (Old Ward No. 19). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
6	Reserve Bank Colony in Ward No. 63, Hebbala (Old Ward No. 21). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
7	Kunthi Grama 'A' Block in Ward No. 63, Hebbala (Old Ward No. 21). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
8	Kunthi Grama 'B' Block in Ward No. 63, Hebbala (Old Ward No. 21). **(Call-2) (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,850.00**
9	Subramani Colony in Ward No. 63, Hebbala (Old Ward No. 21). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
10	Shakthinagar in Ward No. 63, Hebbala (Old Ward No. 21). **(Call-2) (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,850.00**
11	Improvements to CC Roads and Drains, Removing and Resetting of Covering Slabs, Desilting of Drain at AK Colony Block No.87 in Ward No. 64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli (Old Ward No. 22). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
12	Improvements & Development of CC Roads in 1st Main, 7th Cross in Kempegowda Colony in Ward No. 67, Ganganagar (Old Ward No. 20). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
13	Comprehensive Developments of Roads and Drains in Block No.42 in Ward No. 67, Ganganagar (Old Ward No. 20). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**
14	Comprehensive Developments of Roads and Drains in Chunchappa Block No. 32 in Ward No. 68, J.C. Nagar (Old Ward No. 46). **(Call-2) (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 31,700.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24-05-2024. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **10-06-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid is **11-06-2024 after 16.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, BBMP.

KEYWORD

Radical democracy: why is it still relevant today?

Scientific humanism and its political correlate offer a philosophical perspective of human freedom based on scientific knowledge in an age harangued by orthodoxy and regression

Prathmesh Kher

Periods of crisis call attention to the necessity for a radical reorganisation of society. This was the case with 19th century liberal democracy, which had degenerated into exploitation under capitalism, forcing revolutionaries to seek out a better alternative. In time, a large number of these radicals came under the influence of new collectivist doctrines, which offered a transitional dictatorship and centralised economic planning as a remedy to solve the defects of liberal democracy and capitalist exploitation.

The initial enthusiasm of that revolutionary age came to a close when the "spectre of communism" that had once threatened capitalist hegemony had itself degenerated into a dictatorship. The concurrent rise of 20th century fascism led to the development of a political situation where there were outright dictatorships on one end and what some called, the mere panacea of democratic formalities on the other. With the concluding period of the Second World War, millions were dead and the world was in a state of chaos. Many who had been champions of solving humanity's problems saw dictatorship as no solution at all. However, the question of reconciling the aspirations of freedom, and the desire for justice, continued to remain a quandary as before.

During this period of social crisis, the Indian freedom fighter and humanist philosopher Manabendra Nath Roy, and his Marxists colleagues, developed a theory which they felt offered a solution– they referred to it as radical democracy.

ISTOCKPHOTO

A new orientation

Before a contour of a radical democratic political economy can be laid out, a scientifically consistent philosophical outlook must be iterated. To this end, Roy and his colleagues developed the philosophy of new humanism. Humanism, the radicals argued, was as ancient as human beings, and could only be enriched by the new discoveries in scientific thought. A humanism enriched by these new developments in the understanding of the natural world would be best described as 'scientific' or 'new' Humanism.

Human behaviour includes the capacity for rational thought, the radicals argued. "Morality results from man's intelligent response to his surroundings. Therefore, it can be deduced from his innate rationality. Since rationality is inherent in human nature, it is only necessary to remind him of his biological heritage, and he will regain faith in himself and undo the harm done to him," Roy writes in his *Reason, Romanticism and Revolution*. The realisation of the possibility of a secular rational morality opens up a new perspective before the modern world. The concepts of human dignity, sovereignty, and creativeness, have meaning only when they arise, not as a token to divine writ, but from the rational faculty of the individual.

To that end, Roy proposes in his *New Orientation*, "Revolution is not inevitable.... Fundamental changes in the structure of society take place only when there is a group of individuals who feel the necessity, who see the possibility of fulfilling it, and who can develop an adequate amount of will to bring about the changes which are both necessary and possible." That is, women and men, cognisant of their own capacity for reason, and driven to reshape the conditions around them, can do so by cooperating with each other to develop a just and free society.

A radical approach to elections

Democracy, if it is to mean a mere regularised counting of votes is not much more than deception, particularly if the voters have not had a chance to raise themselves up in dignity. In parliamentary democratic conventions, demagogues take power, by promising utopia to a hapless electorate; though once in power the demagogue is evidently unable to deliver, and must invariably resort to strongarm tactics to ensure retaining political power.

The decay of liberal democracies encouraged the rise of various collectivist doctrines which denied the possibility of individual freedom, ridiculing it as an empty abstraction. These doctrines, in turn, proclaimed that in order to be free the individual must merge himself in the mass. This also favoured political demagogues who preferred a mob that acts on appeals to passions. It was easier to sway voters by calls to their sentiments than to their reason. The more backward a populace is, the more easily they could be swayed by appeals to emotional prejudices. "The character of a party is to be judged not by its ability to catch votes, but by the merit of its proclaimed principles and published programme. The people should be asked to vote not for professions and promises, but by judging the record of a government... Under the formal parliamentary system, unscrupulous demagogues can always come to the top," he writes.

A conscious will to freedom, a sense of responsibility and the ability to critically examine the promises and programmes put before the people by parties and politicians are the preconditions for any successful democracy. One must become a judge as to whether such conditions exist in a given society. "To ensure that elections reflect an intelligent public opinion, there has to be an intelligent public opinion first," Roy writes.

The radical democratic approach to election begins with people in their localities meeting in local or regional conferences for discussions. Having come to understand political questions and economic problems for themselves, the people will see that they need not merely vote for this or that party to solve their problems. This would also cultivate the ability for independent judgement and as such the people could choose to elect candidates of their own choice, from amongst themselves.

These candidates would enjoy greater independence since they would not be dependent on any political outfit; they can rely on their own conscience and be directly responsible to the electorate. This would do away with the mechanical nature of party politics and the demagogy and corruption that comes in its wake. Such 'people's committees' would not only have the ability to pick independent candidates from amongst themselves but also eventually become the locus of a pyramidical democracy. Empowered with the right of recall and the ability to hold referendums, these organised local democracies would wield a direct and effective control of the mechanics of the State. A progressive democratic movement can occur only with the intelligent and conscious participation of the individuals who constitute a society. As such, the more individuals choose to think about and participate in the democratic process the more organically democratic it becomes.

A humanist economics

"It is indeed a stupendous task to plan the economic life of a fifth of the human race," Roy had written in his *People's Plan for Economic Development*. Centralisation of politics is concurrent with the centralisation of economics. Under the so-called 'free-market' economies this is done by capitalist concentration of wealth, and under nationalised economies it reverts to State capitalism.

Capitalism produces goods not with the primary consideration of supplying the needs of the people, but of selling them at a profit. When goods cannot be sold with sufficient profit, capitalists will curtail production. This is compounded in the case of countries like India where a large and continually expanding population is seen as detrimental to the economic development of the country. Rapid industrialisation is offered as a solution to many of these problems. However, industries can succeed only on the basis of a home market. A healthy export trade begins only when the home market is satisfied.

"Modernisation of agriculture is the greatest need of the economic life of our country if production of wealth is to be increased. But this is more a matter of organisation of rural economy than of mechanisation," Roy said in a 1949 lecture in Patna. Given the primacy for agriculture, the radical democrats cite three problems that need to be overcome in that regard. Firstly, a lack of irrigation which must be countered by the development of wells, reservoirs, canals, et al. Secondly, an improvement for the fertility of the land which could be incentivised by the State. Thirdly, the development of new roads, and the repair of old ones for the countryside. Finally, an organisation of rural consumers and local industries on a co-operative basis in order to provide employment and income for the rural populace.

A radical democratic programme includes provisos for unemployment insurance, old age pension, and other provisions for the upliftment of the citizens. But these must be made with the principle that economic produce is in line with use and with reference to human needs, with a specific focus on the development of health infrastructure, housing and education.

Why radical democracy?

The conditions of the contemporary world present a dismal picture for those who desire for freedom and do not see it as a contradiction to justice. Even as humanity is the most aware it has been about the cosmos and the laws that govern it, it is simultaneously the closest it has ever been to disintegration.

The way out must be one that harkens to the principles of scientific thought and humanist philosophy. Roy writes in *New Humanism*, "The brain is the means of production, and produces the most revolutionary commodity. Revolutions presuppose iconoclastic ideas. An increasingly large number of men and women, conscious of their creative power, motivated by an indomitable will to remake the world, moved by the adventure of ideas, and fired with the ideal of a free society, can create the conditions under which democracy will be possible"

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmaniam

"All in all (K. Sivakamasundari, Madurai)"

" 'All in all' is used in the sense of 'most important', 'very powerful' by most of us in India. It does not have this meaning in English. It means 'everything considered'.

All in all, it is a well-written book."

"Gibe, jibe"

'Gibe' means 'to taunt, heckle or mock'. It is usually followed by 'at'.

He gibed at his poor performance.

It is also used as a noun.

He couldn't stand her gibes.

'Jibe' also means 'gibe'. In American English 'jibe' is used as a verb to mean 'agree, be in accord'. It is a colloquial word and is followed by 'with'.

It jibes with what you said a few minutes ago.

The 'g' and 'j' are pronounced like the 'j' in 'judge' and 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'mind'."

"Outside, outside of (K.L. Gowd)"

He was sitting outside of the room.

'Outside of' is common in American English. In British English 'outside' is used.

He was sitting outside the room.

In British English, 'outside of' is used in informal contexts to mean 'except for'.

Outside of Lakshman, *everyone behaved well."*

"Famed (S.S. Ray, Calcutta)"

" 'Famed' is used in the sense of 'famous' and is acceptable. It was Time magazine which first used 'famed' in the sense of famous.

The city is famed for its gardens."

"Several readers have asked me to write a dialogue in typical Indian English. The following is written in 'very, very, very Indian English'.

"What's your good name?"

"Duryodhana".

"What are you?"

"I? I am doing nothing. I am keeping quiet only."

"Are you married?"

"Yes. Yes. I am having a Mrs. and two small, small kinds also."

"How old are the kids?"

"One, two aged, other four aged."

"Your parents are with you?"

"They lived but kicked the bucket."

"I'm sorry to hear that."

"No sorry. All written on the forehead. It can't be wiped. What are you doing?"

"I am an engineer."

"What salary you get?"

"Not much."

"Tell no? How much? Three numbers, four numbers?"

"Four figures."

"Four figures? Not much? What you are saying?"

"You are wearing a nice shirt."

"Really? Stitched for Deepavali."

"I must be going now."

"Why? Any head-going business?"

"No. It is time for me to go home and have my bath."

"Head-bath or body-bath? I take head-bath daily only. I enjoy very much. What your address is?"

"I will write it for you. Do you have a piece of paper?"

"No. Paper, keeper. I don't carry. I walk freely. Nothing we brought. Nothing we take. Tell address. I have nice memory."

Published in The Hindu on December 31, 1991.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The International Federation of Association Football, more commonly known as FIFA, was founded on this date in 1904. A quiz on the international regulatory body

Joan Sony Cherian

QUESTION 1
Apart from football, what are the other two sports the federation governs?

QUESTION 2
This journalist of the French paper *Le Matin* was instrumental in the founding of FIFA. Name him.

QUESTION 3
When and where was the first FIFA World Cup hosted? Why did England not participate in the game?

QUESTION 4
When and where was the first FIFA Women's World Cup held? Who won?

QUESTION 5
The bankruptcy of this company in 2001, which held media rights to the World Cup in Europe and the U.S., financially set back the federation. This event is seen as the beginning of a string of controversies and scandals in the federation regarding charges of fraud, bribery and corruption. Name the company.

QUESTION 6
In 1961, FIFA banned this country over its discriminatory sports rules. Name the country.

Visual question:
This incident is considered one of the most shameful events in the history of the FIFA World Cup. Name the incident and the player featured here. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Slovenian pioneered modern beekeeping techniques. **Ans: Anton Janša**
2. The pairs of wings and eyes honey bees have. **Ans: Two and five respectively**
3. The name given to the dance that bees perform to communicate the location of food sources. **Ans: Waggle**
4. To an apiarist, this is what 'Propolis' means. **Ans: It is a substance used in construction of the bee hive and also for preserving honey and other perishables**
5. The function of invertase. **Ans: It change sucrose into equal parts glucose and fructose. It's the beginning of the production of honey**
6. The name given to the male bees which do not have a stringer. **Ans: Drone bees**
Visual: Name the part of a flower from which bees collect pollen. **Ans: Anther**
Early Birds: ViswanadhaRao Batchu| Vineet Giri| Jyot Prakash Gulati| Jagrati Shukla

Word of the day

Haughty:
having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

Synonyms: imperious, swaggering, overbearing, disdainful, prideful

Usage: *He gave me a haughty look and turned away.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/haughtypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈhɔːti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Taking off on the wings of an electric dream

Bengaluru and Norway-based clean-tech start-up SiriNor aims to make aviation emission-free by developing the world's first electric jet turbines

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Visualisation of aircraft with SiriNor engine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aviation accounts for about 2.5% of the total carbon dioxide emissions globally. While the number may seem small, the industry's climate influence is much larger, considering the non-CO2 emissions induced by jet engine heating. The combined emissions together add to the global warming effect.

That's not all. Given the rising number of flyers and the growth in the industry, it is estimated that by 2050 the commercial aircraft emissions could almost triple.

Bengaluru and Norway-based clean-tech start-up SiriNor proposes a solution to this - emission-free electric jet engines. Co-founded by Abhijeet Inamdar and Lars Erik Robertsen in 2021, SiriNor aims to make aviation emission-free by developing the world's first electric jet turbines.

SiriNor's engine design which works on electric propulsion concept would neither have a combustion chamber nor would it require super alloys. According to the team, the energy source would be mostly Hydrogen and fuel cells.

A non-polluting solution

"Jet engines historically have been combustion-based and continue to be so today," says Abhijeet Inamdar, co-founder at SiriNor.

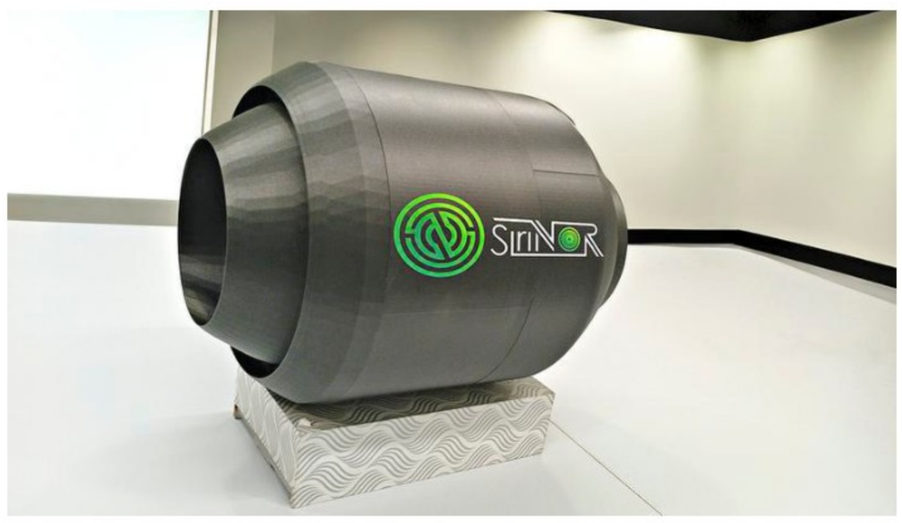
While 70% of the aviation emission is carbon dioxide, a variety of other gases and particulate matter are also emitted by aircraft adding to the warming effect.

These include water vapour, nitrous gases, hydrocarbons, soot, and sulfates.

While the conversations on emissions from the aviation industry so far have mostly been around reducing CO2 emissions, Inamdar notes that emerging start-ups in the space such as SiriNor aim to create more awareness around non-CO2 emissions which has a big influence on total warming effect.

"In combustion engines, the temperature goes up to around 1,500 degrees Celsius resulting in non-CO2 emissions. For our engine the temperature would only go up to 400 degrees Celsius," he points out.

"We don't need super alloys. Instead, we would use materials such as steel, aluminium, titanium or alloys of aluminium. We have mapped out all the supply chain in India, so there wouldn't be a lot of reliance on global supply chains," he further adds.


Prototype of Sirinor's electric engine.

Less carbon, less costs

So, how much less emission are we looking at if all existing jet engines get replaced by electric engines?

According to IATA figures, the combustion of 1 kg of jet fuel in an aircraft engine produces 3.16kg of CO2 and could vary based on several factors including the distance travelled, the load, weather conditions and efficiency of the aircraft.

"If a jet engine flies 3,000 km, it emits around 25 tons of CO2. The non-CO2 emissions are on top of that. Whereas for us, it's zero," Inamdar points out.

In 2019 aviation emitted around 1 billion tons of CO2. As per the International Energy Agency, aviation emissions in 2022 reached 80% of the pre-pandemic levels.

"Even if you capture 20% of that, you are still talking about preventing 200 million tons of CO2 emissions," he remarks.

According to Inamdar electric engine adds value from the cost perspective also.

For example, in European Union measures such as carbon tax per ton of CO2 emission have been proposed for aviation industry. Replacing combustion engines with electric ones could hence help save tax money, he points out.

"For electric jet engines, the biggest advantage apart from zero emissions is that we can reduce costs by at least 30% compared to the existing jet engines. This is because in electric engines temperature doesn't go above 400 degrees. The metallurgy is hence cheaper and easily available," he adds.

The journey

While the start-up was officially registered in 2021, the talks began in 2020, recollects Inamdar.

His wife had been diagnosed with stage-4 cancer and Inamdar had taken a break from his corporate life to spend more time with her.

It was around the same time Robertsen (co-founder of SiriNor) approached him with the idea of designing electric jet engines for supersonic speeds. The idea struck a chord and there was a reason.

The couple, who was based out of U.S. then, wanted to visit their families in India and Thailand; However, the doctors advised against it owing to the long journey and travel time.

"Therefore, the idea of supersonic flights which travel much faster struck a chord with me. When I told my wife about it, she laughed," recollects Inamdar who has a penchant for travelling and dreams of visiting every country someday.

In March 2021, his wife passed away. Refusing to go back to corporate life, he pursued his start-up journey, moved to India, and named the new venture after his wife, Siri.

Abhijeet Inamdar

Lars Erik Robertsen

Pramod Vaditya

Multiple applications

The start-up, which is currently in its seed stage, completed its feasibility study with IISc in 2022-23, and built and tested an electric propulsion system. It has been part of a Shell accelerator programme and is currently working on building its working prototype.

According to the team, one of the first use cases for the engine would be large surveillance drones such as those used by defence.

"Large surveillance drones currently use jet fuel which has emissions and are not made in India. In our case, it's almost 90% made in India. Hence, we can control the cost and sell to the world from India," says Inamdar. The total drone market is currently around $25 billion, and large drones would be around 15% of that.

The second application would be ground effect vehicles or seaplanes, whose market size is estimated to be around $20 billion by 2030.

"That is an emerging market for island-to-island connectivity, offshore rigs, and anything offshore or marine. For going offshore currently boats or helicopters are used and again jet fuel or kerosene comes into the picture. If they can use electric, hydrogen or fuel cells through our engines, two problems can be solved - 1. They can go faster as it's five times faster than boats 2. No emissions," says Inamdar.

Long-distance market

"Aviation comes after that and we would be looking to start with narrow-body private jets," he adds. The jet engine market for aviation is expected to touch $100 billion by 2030.

"The electric jet engine market will be around 10% of that. Even if we capture 1% of that, it is huge revenue," notes an optimistic Inamdar.

According to him, the company would be looking to tap into the above-1000km and up to 4000 km long distance market eventually.

"That's all the flights within India, within the U.S., and most of Europe. Around 60% of the market is within that range."

Amazon announces the fourth season of Propel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Propel S4 will support up to 50 start-ups launch in international markets and create global brands

Amazon India recently announced the launch of the fourth season of Propel - a global business accelerator for start-ups in the consumer products space. This programme has been designed to provide dedicated support to emerging Indian brands and start-ups to reach customers around the world using e-commerce exports.

According to the release, the Propel S4 will support up to 50 start-ups launch in international markets and create global brands from India. The applications for the programme opened on May 14 and will close on June 9, 2024. It will culminate in a demo-day where participants will get a chance to pitch their business propositions to leading VC firms and get a shot at funding to expand their operations.

Bhupen Wakankar, Director of Global Trade at Amazon India, said, "We have already helped over 70 Indian start-ups scale globally through this programme including Minimalist, Sirona, Ecoright, Perfora and Butterfly Edufields. We started the Propel Accelerator to provide emerging companies an opportunity to bring their business propositions to life and create globally popular brands from India and we are excited for a brand-new season of Propel. The season 4 is bigger and better with an expanded range of benefits and support to help up to 50 start-ups from India launch in global markets this year. This program is a key part of our commitment to enable $20 billion in e-commerce exports from India by 2025."

Participating start-ups will win a total rewards worth over $1.5 million including AWS Activate credits, six months of free logistics and account management support, as well as a combined $100K in grants from Amazon for the top 3 winners. Amazon will also help participating start-ups connect with Indian Revenue-based-financing firms namely Klub, Velocity and GetVantage who will provide curated offers to the participating start-ups to expand their business at scale.

A large fibroid uterus of 4 kg removed through laparoscopic surgery

Based on the expertise of the medical team, she opted for a total laparoscopic hysterectomy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The patient had never experienced any overt symptoms. The revelation of such a massive fibroid came as a shock. GETTY IMAGES

Doctors at Aster R.V. Hospital, Bengaluru have created a record first in South India - by removing a 4.005 kg fibroid from the uterus through laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Sunil Eshwar, Lead Consultant - Laparoscopic Surgeon, Aster R.V. Hospital and his team successfully operated on 42-year-old Vijetha (name changed) and removed a fibroid uterus weighing a staggering 4 kg.

A resident of Bengaluru, Vijetha had never experienced any overt symptoms, with no history of medical ailments or prior surgeries, the revelation of such a massive fibroid came as a shock, said the press release.

Crucial decision

The woman faced a crucial decision: total laparoscopic hysterectomy or abdominal hysterectomy. Based on the expertise of the medical team at Aster R.V. Hospital, she courageously opted for a total laparoscopic hysterectomy, embracing the promise of relief and a normal life again.

"I walked into the hospital with scanned reports. I did not have complaints about my menstrual pain, periods or excessive bleeding. A routine scan by Dr. Vijayalakshmi V. Radiologist revealed that I had fibroids of 32 to 34 weeks gravid uterus size. I was counselled and made to understand the drawbacks, disadvantages and health-related complications of having such large fibroids. I was referred by her to Dr. Sunil Eshwar, who counselled both the procedures of surgery and I opted for Laparoscopic Surgery", says the lady.

Dr. Sunil Eshwar- Lead Consultant - Laparoscopic Surgeon, at Aster R.V. Hospital, said, "The challenge of doing a laparoscopy in the uterus region is that there is very little space to place the instruments considering the size of the whole fibroid/uterus occupying the abdomen. Hence getting space to manipulate the instruments is a challenge Finding regular blood vessels becomes difficult. Identifying the blood vessels supplying blood to the uterus and curbing it successfully was a task by itself."

"Fibroids are seen in 20 to 30% of women in the reproductive age group. However, the incidence of such a large fibroid in the uterus is an extremely rare case and unheard of. A normal procedure of removal of fibroid would require around 8 cms cut. Whereas a maximum of 3 cms was all that was required for the laparoscopic procedure," he further added.

Spanning five hours

The surgery, spanning five hours, culminated in the successful removal of the colossal fibroid uterus through the laparoscopic route, giving her a much-deserved relief towards the path of recovery with minimal blood loss, lesser to no infection at all due to the minimal cut on her body, lesser post operation pain, leading to discharge her just 48 hours after the surgery, said the release.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 21, 1974

Karnataka Ministers on Tour Recalled to Attend Council

Bangalore, May 20: The Opposition in the Karnataka Council to-day won its point that the Ministers who are away on a tour should be recalled to attend the House.

The acting Chairman, Mr. T.N. Narasimhamurthy announced that telegrams would be sent by the Government to all Ministers who were on tour requesting them to return to headquarters after cancelling their tour programmes to attend the Council session. He said strict instructions would be issued by the Government to all Ministers except the Chief Minister, the Co-operation Minister and the Public Works Minister directing them to avoid tours during the session. (The Works Minister was exempted for health reasons).

No Proposal to Construct Mansion for CM

Bangalore, May 20: There was no proposal to construct a mansion for the Chief Minister at a cost of Rs 40 lakhs, Mr. N. Hutchamasthy Gowda, Revenue Minister, informed the Legislative Council to-day.

Making a statement in response to a calling attention notice of Mr. Mallur Ananda Rao (Ind), the Minister said it was, however, proposed to convert 'Ballabrooie' building into the official residence of the Chief Minister. In any case repairs to the building were essential and were estimated to cost about Rs 99,500. There was no proposal to demolish this building and construct a new one. The Government would also consider renaming this old building, he said.

CITYBEATS

A Kathakali show

MAY 25
Kairalee Kala Samithi (Bangalore Club for Kathakali and the Arts-BCKA) will present the work of the late poet laureate KC Keshava Pillai, titled *Shoora Padmasura Vadham*.
The Kathakali performance will be presented Kairalee Kala Samithi Auditorium, Vimanapura, HAL at 6pm.
For details about the show, call 6364909880.

Dance portrayal

MAY 22 AND 23
Vanita is a two-day event that delves into the characters of "exemplar women in Indic wisdom". The event will commence with a dialogue with Malavika Avinash, Mangala Narasimhan and Dr Usha RK. There will also be dance performances by dancers including Shraddha Aparna, Navia Natarajan and Shivaranjani Harish.
At Seva Sadan, Malleswaram, 5.15pm. Call 96324 61415 for details and tickets.

A craft bazaar

ONGOING
The Indian Artisans Bazaar mela is on at Chitrakala Parishath. On display are traditional and modern jewellery, decorative items for the home, dress material from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, hand-looms, artefacts and handicrafts. There are also be jute items, sustainable products, Lambani dresses, Kolhapuri footwear and more.
It concludes on May 26.

Project Decode Millet to engage a million corporate employees

This is Vishala Reddy Vuyyala's initiative to promote millets among corporate sector employees in eight cities

Working hand-in-hand with farmers Vishala Reddy Vuyyala is a woman on a mission. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sangeetha Devi Dundoo

Hyderabad-based entrepreneur Vishala Reddy Vuyyala has announced Decode Millet, a 16-month project that aims to connect with a million corporate sector employees in eight cities.

"The year 2023, observed as the International Year of Millets, saw the active participation of start-ups and micro-processing units, which benefited everyone in the value chain including farmers and producer organisations. There is a need to sustain the momentum for at least five years to ensure continuous consumer engagement," says Vishala, who founded Millet Bank and Minkan Agro Industries Pvt Ltd (with Priyanka Barathwaj).

Decode Millet plans to reach employees of 150 corporate houses in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

"There have been focussed studies on the health risks faced by the corporate sector, especially the IT sector, owing to their lifestyles and we believe that consuming millets can help promote better health. I discovered that a leading IT campus has nearly 80,000 employees. So this is an ideal sector to take the millet discourse forward," says Vishala, adding that the first step is to try and remove the notion that millets are not tasty.

Millets and Rayalaseema

Vishala's journey into the millet business began during the lockdown. Millets, however, are not new territory. She grew up in the agrarian belt of Kuppam in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh. "This drought-prone belt of Rayalaseema has been traditionally conducive to growing ragi (finger millet), jowar (sorghum), *samalu* (little millet) and *arikelu* (kodo millet), with pulses and nuts from which oil is extracted. I have witnessed the seeding-to-feeding process."

In 2020, when Vishala visited her sister, who was growing a small patch of millets, she was surprised to learn that a kilogram of grains was being sold to traders at ₹15.

"Growing and harvesting millets is a labour-intensive process and such small returns did not make sense."

Vishala also observed that unlike a few decades ago, several farmers in the villages and tribal regions had moved away from growing and consuming millets. She was aware of the efforts of MCV Prasad (who established Prakruthivanam) and food scientist Khader Vali, who actively continue to promote cultivation and consumption of millets, and wanted to do her bit.

> We began selling our harvest to traders in the nearby districts and Bengaluru, of course for a better price than earlier, and also encouraged more farmers to get back to consuming millets
> **VISHALA REDDY VUYYALA**

Grains and crafts

When Vishala began doing the groundwork for a millet start-up, it brought back childhood memories. "Farming and traditional crafts went hand-in-hand; craftspeople periodically made bamboo baskets and the *chaata* (winnowing basket) before they were replaced with plastic ones. Along with millet products, I also wanted a line of traditional crafts."

Before discussing millets and crafts further, Vishala shares anecdotes from childhood, which involved travelling extra miles for primary education. "I was the first girl in our village to complete school and college."

She then took up a course in sericulture in Kolar, which was 50 kilometers away but opted out after a year, when her mother was diagnosed with cancer. "I pursued a distance education course in political science, public administration and sociology (from BR Ambedkar Open University). Studying from home helped me take care of my mother. "

She also completed an MBA programme from Osmania University. "For the next several years I worked in the business event management sector and travelled to 25 countries."

Alongside event management, she conducted workshops in behavioural change for different sectors. "But I felt the need to do something more concrete. Getting into the millet business and being able to help the farmers filled that void."

Reviving millets

In her native home in the village, the shed that was once used for sericulture lay vacant. Vishala used the space to store seeds and began working towards reviving millet cultivation in the neighbourhood. "We got several other farmers into the fold. Since I am active on social media, I would share our initiatives and people came forward to invest. We formally began Millet Bank in 2021."

There were several learnings. She observes that there are not enough millet processing units in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

"We began selling our harvest to traders in the nearby districts and Bengaluru, of course for a better price than earlier, and also encouraged more farmers to get back to consuming millets. For Millet Bank products, I rely on processing units in Coimbatore, Madurai and Thiruchengodu. They have some of the best processing units and understand millets better. "

Millet Bank began with cookies and expanded to noodles, idli, dosa and cake mixes among other products.

Simultaneously, Vishala launched a crafts line named Krisayu Gifting that sources traditional craft accessories for individual and corporate gifting.

Vishala participated in events conducted as part of the International Year of Millets in 2023, including the G-20 summit, and the Millet Convention conducted by The Hindu Business Line.

Moving forward, she hopes to establish millet processing units in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Roopa Rao: 'I am thrilled about Kenda's win'

Shilpa Anandraj

Roopa Rao's name stands out in the primarily male-dominated world of cinema. The petite filmmaker is a writer, director and producer. A project manager with Infosys, Roopa quit her IT job and started her cinematic career with the web-series, *The Other Love Story* (2016).

The show was followed by the award-winning Kannada film *Gantumoote* (2019), which talks about the pressures of excelling in academics. Roopa who had written and directed the film also produced it with Sahadev Kelvadi, the film's cinematographer.

Sahadev has written and directed *Kenda*, which is Roopa's third project as producer. The yet-to-be-released film was screened at the Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival in April in New Delhi and Sahadev won the Dada Saheb Phalke Best Debut Director Award.

"I am thrilled about the win for *Kenda*," says Roopa as she navigates traffic in Bengaluru. She is headed for the shoot of a Hindi film she is executive producing. "I cannot share the details but we are five days into the shoot. It is a reassurance that we are on the right path and telling the right stories. The award has encouraged us to make more such films."

In the spotlight The poster of the film, (below) Roopa Rao and director Sahadev Kelvadi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Having started their film journey together, Roopa says she has known Sahadev for over a decade. "Sahadev has been telling me *Kenda's* story since the time we first met. I knew the story inside out and knew how he wanted to portray it cinematically."

The partnership, Roopa says works, because the two have similar thought processes while being individually different.

Roopa, who co-founded a production company called Ameyukti Studios, says they were sure *Gantumoote* would be their first film and *Kenda* their second.

Proud of the way the film has turned out, Roopa says *Kenda* reflects reality. "The film is a satire and slice of life. It mirrors society. The story is relatable, something everyone has come across in some form or other."

Kenda, Roopa says, is about a young hooligan. "There is a spectrum for even rowdy behaviour. There are those who throw stones to instigate fear, and others who kill. *Kenda* is about a disruptive young man who uses violence to terrorise society."

Roopa prefers to work on offbeat topics. "No one else seems to be talking about these issues, which happen all around us. Cinema is a medium of expression, where stories can be told in an engaging way."

> Cinema is a medium of expression, where stories can be told in an engaging way
> **ROOPA RAO**

Cinema today, has become a medium of entertainment, Roopa says, who grew up watching films. "Every film I watched impacted me. I prefer watching films to reading books. Every narrative form has its audience. In rural areas, people enjoy *Harikathe*. There is an audience for everything, yet we spoonfeed only one section of the audience."

Seeing the world as her stage, Roopa says, one should not limit oneself to physical borders. "If a story touches me, I would like to make it into a film and if I cannot, then I would like to support the person who can."

The winner takes it all

Sahadev Kelvadi, who has written and directed *Kenda* says he is elated that his debut film was recognised by an eclectic jury.

Apart from Sahadev's debut as director, *Kenda* also marks the debut of lyricist Jayanth Kaikini's son, Ritwik Kaikini as music composer. *Kenda* features actors including BV Bharath, Pranav Sridhar, Vinod Susheela, Gopalakrishna Deshapande, Sachin Srinath, Bindu Raxidi, Sharath Gowda and Sathish Kumar.

The film is currently with the censor board, says Sahadev. "There may not be drastic cuts. At least that is what I assume as we do not think there is anything in the film that is objectionable."

Though it is the director that usually walks away with the accolades, Sahadev says he dedicates the award to the entire *Kenda* team. "This would not have been possible without the joint effort of the actors, technicians and Roopa. "

The award, Sahadev says has not only boosted his confidence, but also got a few offers. "The journey has not been devoid of ups and downs. We went through many roller-coaster moments during the making of *Gantumoote*. Yet, it is that experience that has prepared me to handle the challenges during the making of *Kenda*." Though awards make one feel on top of the world, Sahadev says one cannot rest on laurels. "We have to challenge ourselves every step of the way."

Make an effort To save what we have. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Demystifying climate change

Though the term climate change itself has become commonplace, a true understanding of its causes, impacts and solutions often remains elusive.

To bridge this gap, the Science Gallery Bangalore offers a unique workshop called 'Understanding Climate Change: Questioning Beliefs, Myths and Facts'.

This gamified learning experience, open to young adults (15-28 years old), tackles common myths and beliefs surrounding climate change. Led by climate finance expert Shravan Shankar, co-founder of Climake, the workshop empowers participants to move beyond buzzwords and grasp the realities of climate impact.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Primarily driven by human activities like burning fossil fuels, it causes a rise in global temperatures.

This disrupts natural systems, leading to more extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and changes in precipitation patterns.

Shankar, with over 15 years of experience in sustainable development, will guide participants toward understanding personal and societal solutions.

Supported by the American Centre Chennai, this workshop offers a chance to move beyond awareness and into action.

On May 25, 10 am onwards, at Science Gallery Bangalore, Ganganagar. For more information, visit carbon.scigalleryblr.org.

Corruption case quashed for 'illegal phone tapping'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka quashed a corruption case registered by the CBI against a Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives while terming that the case was registered based on interception of conversations of accused persons by "illegally tapping" their telephones on alleged acceptance of ₹50,000 as bribe.

Though the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, permitted the CBI to tap the telephones of the accused persons, the High Court said issue of alleged demand and acceptance of bribe did not come under the category of "any public emergency or in the interest of public safety" of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Rules 1951 as interpreted by the apex court, for permitting interception of phone conversations.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by S.M. Mannan, who was then working as Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives. The petitioner had questioned the cognisance of offence taken by the special court for CBI cases in 2020 based on the chargesheet filed against him for accepting ₹50,000 as bribe from a quality assurance manager of an LPG cylinder manufacturing unit.

The order of September 2019 permitting telephone tapping states that "the Union Home Secretary is satisfied that it was necessary and expedient in public safety to order interception. What public safety was involved in the case at hand is not known, and is not discernible anywhere either in the order or in the [CBI's] requisition. I fail to understand what public safety or public emergency was involved in the case at hand. The allegation is with regard to acceptance of illegal gratification. If that be so, a drastic measure of wiretapping could not have been permitted against the petitioner," the High Court observed.

On recovery of an envelop containing ₹50,000 from the petitioner's house, the HC said CBI had not produced any other material for either demand or acceptance of the bribe amount as the case was initiated by the CBI solely on intercepted telephone conversation as there was no formal complaint against the petitioner. The court noted that the petitioner started facing troubles and the case was registered after he failed to heed to the repeated instructions of one W. Gladys Jayanthi, who was then working as Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, Bengaluru, for cancelling licence of an LPG storage unit located in Ramanagara district.

A.P. SIT finds lapses in investigation of poll violence cases

The police had filed 33 cases in Palnadu, Anantapur and Tirupati; SIT chief says 1,370 people had been involved in violence, 124 arrested

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

Chaotic scenes: A curfew-like situation in Tadipatri town of Anantapur during the post-poll violence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 13-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed the violence that occurred on the day of polling (May 13) and the following days identified many lapses in the investigation of the cases, which impacted the law and order in the State. The sub-teams of the SIT identified several lapses and instructed the investigation officers to ensure compliance at the earliest.

The police registered 33 cases in Palnadu, Anantapur and Tirupati districts on May 13 and in later days. The highest number of 22 cases were registered in Palnadu district followed by seven in Anantapur.

The State government constituted the SIT, headed by Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Special Investigation Bureau (SIB), Vineet Brijlal to investigate the poll-related violence.

The team was tasked to submit its report within 48 hours, for submission to the Election Commission.

Four teams, including two in Palnadu, and one each in Tirupati and Anantapur districts, were deployed. The SIT officers, who camped in the respective districts, visited the scene of offences, interacted with the aggrieved persons, investigation officers, and witnesses, besides inquiring with the police about the status of the investigation of the cases.

Mr. Brijlal and the Superintendent of Police, Rama Devi, submitted a 150-page report to the Director-General of Police (DGP), Harish Kumar Gupta, at the State Police Headquarters at Mangalagiri, near here, on Monday. "In all, 1,370 persons were involved in the violent incidents in the three districts, of which 731 were identified and 124 accused were arrested so far. About 1,152 were yet to be arrested," said the SIT chief.

Notices served

The police are making efforts to identify about 639 accused, and notices have been served on 94 accused under Section 41 (A) Cr.PC, Mr. Brijlal said.

"SIT noticed that many of these offences are extremely serious in nature, as multitudes of miscreants participated in the violence in groups, and pelted stones indiscriminately, which led to serious injuries and could have caused death," the officers said in the report.

After discussing the SIT findings, Mr. Harish Kumar Gupta directed the IGPs, DIGs and the SPs concerned to complete the investigation in all the cases at the earliest and take further action.

Heavy rain lashes Kerala districts; man missing in river

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Summer rainfall was strong over Kerala on Monday, even as an India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning with regard to extremely heavy rainfall remains in place for three districts.

Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki are on red alert for extremely heavy rainfall (above 30 cm in 24 hours) on Tuesday also. Five other southern and central districts, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur, are on orange alert for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall on Tuesday. Northern districts are on yellow alert for isolated heavy showers.

Man washed away

Pathanamthitta is on red alert on Wednesday as well.

A 25-year-old migrant labourer was washed away by strong currents while bathing in the Manimala river in Pathanamthitta on Monday evening.

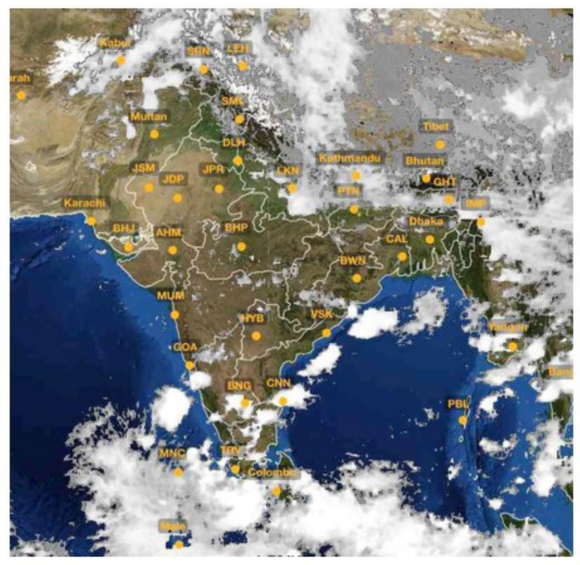
A search was in progress for the man, identified as Naresh from Bihar, at the time of filing this report.

The State Agriculture Department has opened control rooms in all the districts, considering the possibility of rainfall-related losses in the farm sector.

Strong westerly/southwesterly winds at lower levels prevails over the Kerala region, triggering widespread rainfall.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Hot and humid weather likely to prevail over Bihar, Jharkhand and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13	34.2	24.0	Kozhikode	116	28.2	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	44.5	31.2	Kurnool	—	38.7	28.0
Aizawl	3	33.1	22.3	Lucknow	—	41.2	29.9
Allahabad	—	44.5	29.6	Madurai	6.5	32.2	25.1
Bengaluru	—	29.1	22.0	Mangaluru	—	30.8	24.6
Bhopal	—	41.8	29.6	Mumbai	—	34.8	29.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.8	28.4	Mysuru	10	31.3	—
Chandigarh	—	43.2	30.1	New Delhi	—	44.1	29.2
Chennai	—	35.1	27.6	Patna	—	34.5	28.8
Coimbatore	—	31.0	24.2	Port Blair	1.7	33.0	26.1
Dehradun	—	40.0	23.5	Puducherry	—	33.1	25.3
Gangtok	3	23.0	16.9	Pune	14.2	38.6	25.1
Goa	55	33.2	23.9	Raipur	—	41.3	27.4
Guwahati	44	32.4	22.4	Ranchi	26	37.4	21.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	25.0	Shillong	0.7	24.8	15.3
Hyderabad	2	36.0	25.4	Shimla	5.8	32.2	22.6
Imphal	2	31.1	21.2	Srinagar	6	28.5	12.4
Jaipur	—	44.2	33.5	Thiruvananthapuram	88	28.2	23.8
Kochi	14.2	28.4	24.6	Tiruchi	100.5	35.5	26.0
Kohima	3	20.0	11.2	Vijayawada	23	36.3	26.2
Kolkata	59	35.8	28.9	Visakhapatnam	0.1	35.5	28.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	174	.25	128	96	
Bengaluru	7	.15	.62	32	47	
Chennai	8	—	107	24	26	
Delhi	.27	131	.54	322	349	
Hyderabad	.15	.24	.43	28	42	
Kolkata	7	.21	.20	35	38	
Lucknow	7	.40	.29	202	149	
Mumbai	9	.32	.31	—	143	
Pune	.12	.59	.47	75	68	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.33	.15	23	59	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dausa, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 326 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

₹500 bonus per quintal for farmers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to pay ₹500 bonus per quintal for fine rice cultivated by farmers from the kharif season.

The Cabinet on Monday decided this after discussing the procurement of rabi food grain, amenities in educational institutions ahead of reopening of schools and steps to be taken in respect of the interim report submitted by the National Dam Safety Authority on damages suffered by the components of Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.

Appeal rejected

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday disposed of an appeal by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against a single judge interim order directing it not to summon former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac during the Lok Sabha poll period for questioning him in a case relating to FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) violations in the floating of masala bonds by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board.

The Bench led by Chief Justice A.J. Desai passed the order.

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3rd Extension of Time
Ref. NIT No.: WBSEDCL/Communication/Tender/2023-24/SCADA/WB/1583, **Dtd.:** 08.02.2024 of the Chief Engineer, Communication Cell, WBSEDCL. **Bid Submission End Date** is hereby further extended up to **18.06.2024 (12:00 hrs.)**.
For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED Tender Notice
O/o the Chief Engineer, Transmission (North), Kozhikode
E -Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_672873 PAC: Rs. 6,56,27,000/- Last Date- 01.06.2024 03.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, Distribution (North), Kozhikode
E -Tender ID: 2024_ KSEB_672665_1 PAC: Rs. 35,90,90,000 Last Date- 03.06.2024 05.00 pm
E -Tender ID: 2024_ KSEB_672707_1 PAC:Rs. 22,02,85,100/- Last Date- 03.06.2024 05.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, (Projects- Electrical Designs), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_670033_1 PAC : Rs. 110,44,22,124/- Last Date- 03.06.2024 05.00 pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, TransGrid TC Division, Shoranur, Palakkad
E-Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_668102_1 PAC :Rs. 1,31,93,324/- Last Date- 05.06.2024 04.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, (P & SCM), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_672922_1 PAC : Rs. 91,88,48,500/- Last Date- 05.06.2024 03.00 pm
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in**
Ref : PR/MC1/E493/E-tender/2024

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
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An autonomous body under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
Indian Institute of Packaging is an Apex Institute providing inter alia packaging technology education in administrative control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India with Head Office in Mumbai and Regional Offices in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru.
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25
(Entrance Examination - 14th July 2024)
PGDP: Post Graduate Diploma in Packaging
Eligibility: A candidate should have passed the full Time Graduate degree examination in Science (12th + 3 years degree entire 5 years in science only) with Physics/ Chemistry/Mathematics, Microbiology or Biochemistry as the main subject or one of them as second subject in the three year degree or Agriculture / Food Science/ Polymer Science or Engineering / Technology degree from AICTE recognized University with minimum second class.
M.S.: Master in Packaging Technology
(Affiliated by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad)
Eligibility: A candidate should have passed the full time (not by correspondence or part time) Graduate degree in Engineering & Technology or four year graduate in science.
Important Dates
Last Date of Submission of filled application Form : 10th July 2024
(Online/Offline mode)
Entrance Exam (IIPCET): 14th July 2024
(Offline Mode at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bangalore Centre)
Contact Details
Mumbai : +91 22 69192242-5; Mob: 8939365583
Kolkata : +91 33 2367 0763/ 6016; Mob: 8017219939
Ahmedabad : +91 079 29600700 / Mob: 9586494842
Hyderabad : +91 40 23814321; Mob: 9874222396
Email : onlinepgdp@iip-in.com; tneiip1@iip-in.com
Candidates can visit the IIP website: www.iip-in.com and submit the application form through online/offline mode for PGDP and M.S.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. Saroja Sundaram (Amma)
Fondly remembering you on the sixth anniversary of your demise on May 21, 2018.
- Jaya, Ravi, Shubha, Akhila, other family members & friends

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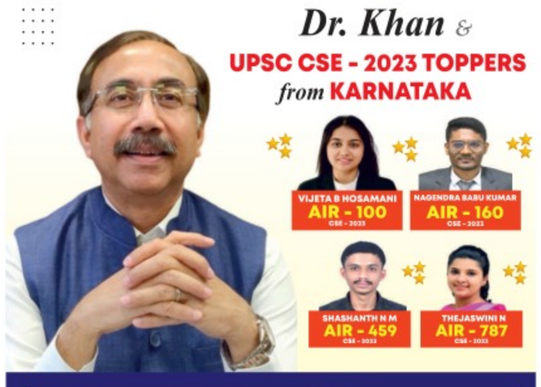

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M Krishna Kumari, spouse of Air Cmde Marathu Veetil Kannan (Retd), resident of 465 Jal Vayu Towers, NGEF Layout, Indira Nagar P O, Bangalore–560038 have changed my name from M Krishna Kumari to Manikath Krishna Kumari vide Affidavit dated 18/05/24 at Bangalore.

I, HAMNA Abdullah Taibani, W/o Maaz Dharodia, R/o No.27, Rathan Singh Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 have changed my name to Hamna Dharodia vide affidavit dt: 18.05.2024 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, B'lore

I, ARAVIND Gopinath, residing at 78, Terracon Residency, Hennagara Main Road, Bommasandra, Bangalore-99 aged about 36 years have changed my minor son's name from Advaith to Advaith Aravind vide affidavit dated 22-04-2024 before notary Chanchala Lakshmi, Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIK Mohammed Sohif, S/o. Shaik Mehaboob Basha, (Date of Birth: 15/11/1984), R/o. No.24 Alhan Manzil, 2nd Cross, Modi Garden, Kavalbyrasandra, Bengaluru- 560032, have changed my name from Mohammed Sohif to Shaik Mohammed Sohif, vide affidavit, dated: 16/05/2024, sworn to before Notary Public, K.H. Jagadish, Bangalore.

I, Gundai Rathnamaiah R/o #38,1st Main, 3rd Cross, Gundappa Reddy Layout, Hebbala,B'lore 560032 have changed my minor daughter's name from Gundai Nihitha to Nihitha Naidu Gundai .

I, SONI Krshna Pareshkumar, R/at No.30, 1st Floor, 1st Main, Domlur Layout, Bangalore-560071, have changed my name from Soni Krshna Pareshkumar to Krishna Soni vide affidavit dated 16/05/2024 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, K. Paul, S/o. Krupanandam, (Date of Birth: 04/08/1945), Retd. Govt. Servant, R/o. No.2494, LIG KHB, 3rd Stage, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name from K. Paul to Krupanandam Paul, vide Affidavit No. 520/Vol.13, dated: 16/05/2024, Sworn Before Notary Public, K.H. Jagadish, Bangalore. I shall henceforth be known as Krupanandam Paul for all future purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE FAMILY COURT JUDGE, R.R.D1STRICT, AT LB NAGAR
FCOP NO. 1353 OF 2022
Between:
Afreen Begum ...Petitioner
and
Mohammed Liyaqath ..Respondent
TO
Mohammed Liyaqath Ali S/o Late Mohammed Anwar Aged 41 years, 0cc: Pvt. Employee. R/o H. No.52, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Pillana Garden Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka State Respondent
NOTICE
Take notice that the above named Petitioner filed the above case for seeking divorce against you before the above Honourable Court and the above case is posted to 12/06/2024. Make it convenient to appear before the above Honourable Court on 12/06/2024 at 10.30 AM either in person or through Advocate, otherwise, the matter will be decided in your absence.
// By order of the Court //
P. VENKATESWARAO
ADVOCATES
Plot No.21, H.No.2-1-241, Road No.1 C, Mamathanagar, Nagole, Hyderabad - 50006
COUNSEL FOR PETITIONER

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedures)
IN THE COURT OF SH MUKESH KUMAR GUPTA, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT)-07, ROOM NO. 302 CENTRAL, EXTENSION BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI
CS (COMM) 729/2021
Next Date of Hearing:- 10.07.2024
ICICI BANK LTD.
VS
C. ANAND
To,
C ANAND S/O CHANNAIAH
439, 1ST FLOOR, SEC-22A, NEAR MARUTI UDHYOG ,GURGAON- 122 001
C ANAND S/O. CHANNAIAH
H. NO. 850, 8 MAIN ROAD FORT CROSS NAGAR, T DASARAHALLI, KARANTAKA-560 057
C ANAND S/O CHANNAIAH
SHRI AXMI WETPROCESS AND DRY CLEANERS, NEAR BAJHERA ROAD, SECTOR- 110A, SAI KUNJ, PALAM VIHAR, NEAR PRASHANT POULRTY FARM, GURGAON- 122 001
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **10.07.2024** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this **23.04.2024**
District Judge
Commercial Court
Tis Hazari Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE SUB COURT, KATTAPPANA
O.S. No. 19/2023
Plaintiffs
(1) T.H. Hameed, aged 60 years, S/o Hassan, residing at Thottumkarayil House, Keettila Kara, Velliyamattom Village, Thodupuzha Taluk
(2) Nissar K.P, aged 41 years, S/o KM. Pareekutty, residing at Pulickal House, Kattamala Bhagom, Erattupetta Kara, Erattupetta Village, Meenachil Taluk
Defendants :
(1) P. Vijayalakshmi, aged 67 years, W/o A. Prabhu Arumugham, House No. 96, 11th Cross Pavamana Nagar, Gottigere, Kompatahalli Road, Pin-560083, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka.
(2) P.A. Sankar, aged 36 years, S/o Prabhu Arumugham, House No. 96, 11th Cross, Pavamana Nagar, Gottigere, Kompatahalli Road, Pin-560083, Bangalore South Taluk, Karnataka.
SUMMONS/NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANTS 1 AND 2
Whereas the plaintiffs above has instituted a suit against you for return of advance sale consideration with respect to the plaint schedule property, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer such questions on the 05th day of June 2024 at 11 O'clock in the..... noon, to answer the th claim; (and further you are hereby directed to file on that day a written statement of your defence and to produce on the said day all documents in your possession or power upon which you base your defence or claim for set-off or counter-claim, and where you rely on any other document whether in your possession or power or not as evidence in support of your defence or claim for set- off or counter claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement)
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 14th day of May 2024
Sd/-
By Order, Judge
Adv. Baby Joseph
Counsel for Plaintiffs

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 58)
O.S.No. 26561/ 2021
Hg. 28/06/2024
Between
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068, Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa B
...Plaintiff And
Mrs. Vanessa J Standen
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mrs. Vanessa J Standen,
D/o Mr. Dean Terrence Standen, Aged about 31 years, R/at No. 935, Ground Floor, HBR Layout, 21st Cross, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Brindavan Nagar, Near Narendra Toffee, Bangalore- 560 043
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs.6,32,026/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Twenty Six Only)** together with interest @10.99% P.a. cost the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **28.06.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **16/05/2024**
BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL MAYOHALL UNIT BANGALORE
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S A Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

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A closer contest

Women voters seem to hold the key as elections reach the business end

The fifth phase of the general election, held on Monday, featured contests in the fewest number of seats – 49. But it included heavyweight seats such as Rae Bareli, Amethi and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, the urban areas of Mumbai, Thane and Nashik in Maharashtra, the southern parts of West Bengal, which saw strong contests between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in 2019, besides simultaneous Assembly and parliamentary polls in the south-western seats of Odisha. In Maharashtra, the splintering of the main regional parties has made it a battleground State along with Bihar, Karnataka and West Bengal. Voter turnout in Maharashtra was relatively low when compared to the rest of the country, with Mumbai retaining its unfavourable reputation of voter apathy. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction counts these seats as some of its strongholds and its alliance's performance here might well decide the course of the battle now as well as in the Assembly elections later this year. The Maha Vikas Aghadi-Mahayuti contest of coalitions has upended the traditional patterns of support bases for the extant parties in the State and this election could herald a new correlation of forces.

In U.P., the Opposition has managed to keep the contest going on issues related to livelihoods and has prevented it being a cakewalk for the BJP which has sought to use the Ram Mandir consecration issue to register another near-sweep. The Opposition's focus is expected to give it a bigger fillip in Bihar, where Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswi Yadav's relentless campaigning on employment issues has made the elections even more competitive. The BJP now seeks to bank on its record in welfare delivery, expecting the support of poorer voters and women. Voter turnout in the fifth phase is in line with the trends seen in the fourth phase in U.P., which registered better numbers than phases two and three, while preliminary trends in Bihar indicate a slight reduction compared to the previous phase. The turnout has in general been marginally lower than what it was in 2019 across the country. In Odisha and West Bengal too, women voters could be crucial in deciding the fortunes of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the TMC. While turnout was relatively low in Odisha, West Bengal registered close to 73%, according to early numbers. Women outvoted men in West Bengal significantly till phase four and the TMC would be encouraged as it banks on its women-centric welfare measures to overcome the BJP's formidable challenge. The BJD would hope that its work in mobilising women through self-help groups will continue to yield it strong support, especially in rural areas.

Death of a President

Change at the helm comes at a time of domestic and regional uncertainties

The death of Iran's eighth President, Ebrahim Raisi, and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran amid bad weather has sent shockwaves across West Asia. Raisi and others, including local officials, were travelling to Tabriz after inaugurating a dam with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, on the countries' shared border when his chopper went down in Iran's East Azerbaijan province. Raisi, a conservative cleric, rose to power in 2021 after eight years of rule by moderate President Hassan Rouhani, who signed the 2015 nuclear deal with the U.S. and other world powers. Mr. Rouhani's promise of change and prosperity through dialogue did not materialise as the then U.S. President, Donald Trump sabotaged the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran. When moderates lost their face and morale, the conservatives tightened their grip on the state through Raisi. A confidant of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Raisi escalated a crackdown on civil rights at home, strengthened Iran's ties with Russia and China, doubled down on its support for non-state militias such as Hamas and Hezbollah and expanded Iran's nuclear programme. In three years, he emerged as one of Iran's most powerful men and was seen as a potential successor to Mr. Khamenei.

The death of the President could not have come at a worse time for Iran. It is already struggling to stabilise a stricken economy, battered by U.S.-imposed sanctions, and trying to calm social tensions. The nuclear deal remains dead and West Asia is on fire. In April, Raisi oversaw an unprecedented attack on Israel following Israel's strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Israel's meek response avoided an all-out war but tensions remained high. In recent years, Iran has also lost key officials. In the deaths of Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian, the Islamic Republic has lost an experienced, crisis-hardened cleric administrator and a seasoned diplomat. It is understandable that Iran would need time to get over the shock that it is in now. Given the geopolitical tensions, Raisi's death could also fuel conspiracy theories, which could further inflame the region. So, it is imperative for Iran to get to the bottom of the crash. Another priority is that the transition to a new presidency is handled smoothly. First Vice-President Mohammed Mokhber will assume interim presidential powers and the country is expected to hold a presidential election within 50 days. A change in presidency is unlikely to alter Iran's foreign policy direction, but the loss of one of the most experienced and ideologically disciplined defenders of the revolution and a transition amid domestic and regional uncertainties, is an added challenge to the Islamic Republic.

Critical times call for strong judicial adjudication

Kaleeswaram Raj

is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court of India will, sooner or later, consider the question whether the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the rules under it can pass constitutional scrutiny. That the recently promulgated CAA Rules are unclear about the fate of the applicants whose request for citizenship is turned down has aggravated concerns over the issue. There is also a fear that persons whose applications are disallowed might end up in detention centres. Some of the petitioners before the Court have also raised concerns over dual citizenship to foreign applicants who need not have to abandon their original citizenship. This would create uncertainty in the matter of citizenship, as it goes against the spirit of the parent Act, it is pointed out.

Interdicting a statute or set of statutory rules is not a routine exercise undertaken by the constitutional courts. Generally, a law made by Parliament is presumed to be valid unless it is shown to have ostensibly breached constitutional provisions. The law presumes that, normally, malice cannot be attributed to a process of legislation (*Manish Kumar vs Union Of India*, 2021). In *Gurudevdatta Vksss Maryadit and Ors. vs State Of Maharashtra and Ors* (2001), the Supreme Court said that "legislative malice is beyond the pale of jurisdiction of the law courts...."

The lack of interdiction

This conventional wisdom, however, is incapable of addressing the contemporary challenges posed by populist regimes across the world, which often invoke motivated or targeted legislation. Such dispensations also manipulate the electoral system or process by legislative means. This recent legislative trend calls for an advanced and assertive juridical approach. Refusing to interdict the operation of such enactments, by adhering to an obsolete presumption regarding validity of the law would severely diminish the counter-majoritarian role which constitutional courts are supposed to play in critical times.

Every piece of legislation is a political statement. A regime that does not believe in the idea of constitutional democracy would naturally enact laws with scant regard to the scheme of the Constitution. On such occasions, a sense of judicial euphoria about the 'validity' of the laws has precluded the Supreme Court from interdicting the operation of laws. The absence of an order of stay against demonetisation has allowed the tragedy to happen and by the time the case was decided in *Vivek Narayan Sharma vs Union of India* (2023), the situation was totally irreversible. The lack of interdiction of the dilution of Kashmir's special status has also made the litigation almost a *fait accompli*, as one finds in the judgment *In Re Article 370 of the Constitution of India* (2023).

> The process of judicial review should be strong, immediate, and unambiguous in the case of statutes that are obviously unconstitutional or divisive

Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India (2023) was a radical judgment by the Constitution Bench of the top court that called for an independent body to select the Election Commission of India (ECI), with no predominance for the executive of the day. But, recently, the Centre promulgated the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. This Act revived the earlier position of the "Prime Minister's Committee" choosing the ECI. It comprises the Prime Minister, a Minister chosen by him and the Opposition Leader in the Lok Sabha, whose presence is inconsequential for all practical purposes. Appointments were made based on the new law.

The law was challenged in *Jaya Thakur vs Union of India* (2024). The Court, however, refused to prevent the operation and implementation of the statute based on "presumption" of its validity. This is not a targeted legislation, but an enactment, which, on the face of it, is unconstitutional. The statute threatens the very foundation of our democracy, of which free and fair elections are a basic feature. This is an illustrative case where the Court failed to protect its own judgment, essentially on account of the judicial superstition regarding the presumption of validity of the enactment. It is no wonder that in the general election 2024, the commissions and omissions by the ECI on several occasions remain questionable.

A case of targeted legislation

The CAA and the rules under it, on the other hand, clearly fall within the category of targeted legislation. Legislative malice is writ large in the law. The law classifies people in the name of religion and excludes Muslims from the process for grant of citizenship.

Another prominent example of targeted legislation is the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act (2019), which criminalised instant triple *talaq*. Significantly, the act of instant triple *talaq* had been invalidated by the Supreme Court in *Shayara Bano* (2017) and, therefore, there was no legal requirement to 'criminalise' an act which was *non est* in the eye of law. The statute only motivated the 'clever' husbands to resort to other means of divorce or to simply desert their wives, to get rid of the penal consequences. Thus, the law, which was aimed against the Muslim community, evidently did not come to the rescue of Muslim women. Often, it did the opposite. The enactment was however 'successful' in its divisive agenda. Anti-conversion laws in certain States in the country also followed suit.

An example in the U.S.

In the United States too, the conventional view did not favour judicial nullification of statutes on the ground of malice. John Hart Ely stated that the Constitution cannot be used as "an instrument for punishing the evil thoughts of members of the political branches". But evil thoughts of the majority in the legislative bodies are a harsh contemporary reality. Therefore, motivated legislations should call for a more rigorous judicial scrutiny. Scholar Susannah W. Pollvogt correctly writes that "*animus* can never constitute a legitimate state interest for purposes of equal protection analysis". By referring to the judgment in *United States Dept. of Agriculture vs Moreno, 413 U.S. 528* (1973), she said that the enactment to exclude "hippies" from collective residential rights implies a "desire to harm" a particular group and therefore reflects discrimination (Unconstitutional Animus, Fordham Law Review, 2012).

There are Indian precedents where the Supreme Court has effectively interdicted operation of parliamentary legislations. In *Ashoka Kumar Thakur vs Union of India* (2007), regarding the prescription of 27% quota for Other Backward Community (OBC) candidates to professional colleges, the Court initially issued a judicial injunction. The Court's order of stay in the case of the three contentious farm laws in *Rakesh Vaishnav vs Union of India* (2021) is another example. The Court in that case effectively prevented the implementation of the farm laws which the Centre had to withdraw ultimately following farmers' protest.

As regarding the statutes which are glaringly unconstitutional or divisive, the process of judicial review should be strong, immediate, and unambiguous. The top court should be able to learn from its track record and understand the political consequences of its insensitivity during critical times. Delay often defeats the purpose of constitutional adjudication. Time is the essence of judicial review when it comes to malicious and unconstitutional laws.

Another crash, another high-profile passenger

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

The fatal crash, on May 19, 2024, of a Bell 212 helicopter flying the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, and Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, is one more accident involving high-profile passengers, in mountainous terrain and in very poor visibility. One hopes people learn from these.

Given the increased tensions in West Asia and the gung-ho attitude of Israel, with open American support, suspicion will be raised about the Israeli hand. Tel Aviv has denied this and distanced itself from the crash, but neither the United States nor Israel have any credibility left for the world to accept their innocence without serious cross-checks.

Was the Iranian President's plan known earlier? Was the flight arranged for some urgent meeting? And was the President informed about the dangerous weather conditions?

Pressure on crew

There have been a number of fatal crashes involving very very important persons (VVIPs). On September 2, 2009, a Bell helicopter crash claimed the life of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. The copter crashed in the hills near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, in poor visibility conditions, killing all on board. Mr. Reddy had been proceeding to a political meeting. As is the norm in accident investigation reports in India, the truth was hidden and the pilots blamed.

> The Iran helicopter crash spotlights the importance of allowing the crew to operate unhindered and ensuring flight safety

On December 8, 2021, India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, and his entourage died in an Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter crash near Coonoor, Tamil Nadu. Here again, it was hilly terrain and in fog. Gen. Rawat had the option of travelling by road but had insisted on flying. Did the crew point out the danger due to foggy weather? We will never get to know as accidents involving the armed forces are hushed up.

Why do pilots let themselves be arm-twisted into flying in weather conditions that are dangerous? They are the ones who are trained to fly in all weather conditions. The passengers have no knowledge of weather conditions, even if one were to brief them. They have an agenda to fulfil. Very few politicians will take inputs from pilots.

It is not just the crew of helicopters with VVIPs who cave into pressure. On April 10, 2010, the aircraft carrying the President of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, and his wife, Maria, crashed in fog killing 96 people. They were flying to a programme to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the massacre near Smolensk in Russia. The investigative agencies from Poland and Russia concluded that the pilots had made the approach in unsafe conditions. The pilots had made the approach in thick fog and the aircraft descended below the normal approach path, hit trees, rolled over and crashed in wooded area short of the runway.

If one were to go back to crashes in India, highlighted above, the similarity is visible, except that the Polish craft was an aircraft.

Weather and judgement

In fog and heavy rain, the visual illusions are plenty and depth perception induced by rainwater flowing down the aircraft/helicopter windscreen makes a huge impact. Several accidents have been caused due to misjudgements induced by optical illusions. Navigation in poor visibility has become easier with the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) with an accuracy as close as a metre. The accuracy takes a hit if one uses a different system where the datum shifts. Military aircraft, to avoid enemy interception or identification, tweak the system. Worldwide, it is the WGS 84 which is the base datum. The Indian Air Force uses a system called EVER-MD. Datum shift can result in an error of between 10 metres and 3,000m. The Balakot fiasco, which is denied vigorously by the Indian Air Force but confirmed to be a miss by world organisations with very accurate sightings, was caused by the position input based on one datum and the missiles using the co-ordinates based on the WGS 84.

Attitude to safety, a contrast

In the U.S., the most dangerous airfield in foggy conditions is Aspen in Colorado. Pilots require special training. On March 29, 2001, a Gulfstream Avjet charter flight crashed while on the steep approach in poor visibility conditions. The investigation showed that the crew were under pressure by the owner to fly even though a Federal Aviation Administration official had advised against the flight. Because of the findings and transparent report, such accidents do not recur.

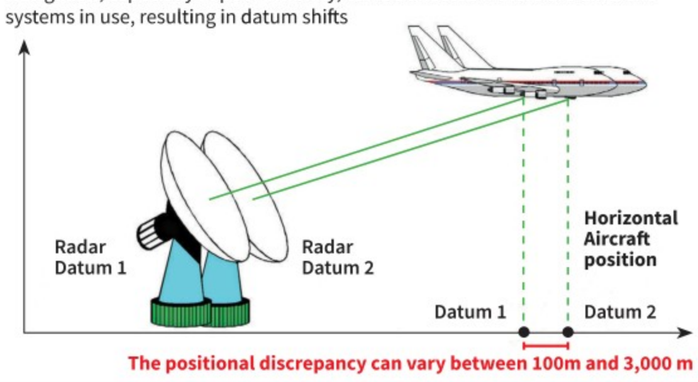
We have had several accidents, both fatal as well as hull losses without fatalities. Many of them have had pilots making similar errors, and blatant violation of rules by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Airports Authority of India and airlines. Yet, we turn a blind eye to aviation safety. It is a pity we have a judiciary whose understanding of aviation safety is so poor.

Finally, there are questions that arise out of the Iran crash.

The helicopter was U.S. made. Due to sanctions, were any vital components of the navigation equipment or parts denied to Iran? Israel may deny its involvement, but can it be trusted? Will the U.S. agencies confirm that neither Israel or U.S. agencies are not involved? Will those in power, worldwide, leave the decision on flight safety to the pilots who operate the flight? Decisions about a flight by the pilot should never be overruled by a person on board, irrespective of his or her rank. It takes just a few seconds of delayed action induced by stress and fatigue to court disaster. It is sad that several top officials, including the President of a country, have died in the crash. The collateral damage is the loss of lives of innocent fellow passengers and the crew. One hopes that better sense prevails on leaders.

Flight path accuracy and different systems

Navigation, especially in poor visibility, can be affected if there are different systems in use, resulting in datum shifts



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ebrahim Raisi

In the passing of Iran's President, Ebrahim Raisi, and also its Foreign Minister, there is bound to be suspicion. Tehran's relations with Israel are certain to be more strained than before. However, for India it is a matter of concern as the relationship between India and Iran was getting strengthened, as reflected in the signing of the agreement on the Chabahar port.

A.G. Rajmohan,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

The death of President Raisi is in the midst of the unrest in West Asia. This would also focus the spotlight on the U.S. given its constant (political) interference. With the near direct and ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, the U.S. has to tread with caution now. Its every assistance to Israel here onwards will be seen as moves to leverage the leadership vacuum caused by Raisi's absence. Given the uncertainty over the bent of the incoming new leadership in Iran, the U.S. needs great sagacity to avoid a sharp flare-up in an already volatile region. U.S. President Joe Biden has an opportunity to prove his own mettle as also the pre-eminence of his nation, that too in an election year.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Urban voter apathy

The major cities in the country, often labelled as vibrant hubs of diversity and progress, have consistently grappled with record-low voter turnouts in local body, Assembly and parliamentary elections. This lethargy needs to be condemned. It proves that people in the city talk much but vote less. Urban voter apathy has serious implications for any democracy.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Revisiting the Railway strike of 1974

Robert Rahman Raman

is a labour historian with a PhD from CeMIS, University of Goettingen. Views expressed are personal

The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the railway workers' general strike, a monumental event in the history of organised labour in India. This general strike, a remarkable display of working-class unity, was unparalleled in its geographical spread and public involvement. Faced with gruelling work conditions, diminishing wages and bonuses, and soaring prices of essential goods and oil, exacerbated by a meagre wage hike proposed by the Third Pay Commission, the railway workers decided to go on a general strike on May 8. The strike, however, began unexpectedly when more than a million railway workers deserted their posts across India following the arrest of George Fernandes, president of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, at Lucknow on May 1. The station masters of Victoria Terminus sealed its gates in the early hours of May 2, thereby challenging the ruling government and asserting their authority over a symbolic and physical unifier of the nation.

Bringing life to a standstill

Despite the initial lack of coordination, the strike swiftly brought normal life to a standstill in all the major cities. It halted the railway system, disrupting train movement across the country. There was not a single major railway centre that was not shut down or severely affected. The strike was all-encompassing in the metropolitan centres, and along with the long-distance passenger trains, the suburban services were also immobilised. In Bombay, a general strike was called in solidarity, bringing the city to a grinding halt. All the major railway towns with a substantial population of railway workers, such as Jamalpur, Perambur, Mughalsarai, and Kharagpur, emerged as the strongholds of the strike. Despite the Railway Board and the government's assertions, the railway system was thrown into disarray for over three weeks. One of the striking features of the general strike was the pivotal role played by the railway workers' families, especially women. In Delhi, they went around railway residential colonies, painting the faces of strikebreakers with vermilion and forcing them to put on bangles. They demonstrated outside local police stations and gheraoed them against the arrest of railway workers and blocked tracks to prevent train services.

The railway workers' tenacity to continue with the strike was met by unprecedented violence by the incumbent government. Besides declaring the strike illegal under the Defence of India rules, the government mobilised police and paramilitary forces to maintain train services, arrest union leaders, and intimidate workers. At most stations, the security forces outnumbered passengers and striking workers. As many as 50,000 railway workers were arrested during the strike; 10,000 were put behind bars within the first 24 hours. More than 30,000 families were evicted from the railway colonies. Railway colonies of Mughalsarai, Jamalpur, Jhansi and other important towns emerged as the centre of this brutal repression. Police and paramilitary forces frequently raided and ransacked homes, threatened eviction, and harassed workers and their families to coerce them to resume work. These military-style operations, which confronted the workers and their families as enemies rather than protesting citizens, marked a new authoritarian turn by the government, which culminated in the Emergency of 1975. Although the strike mobilised the workers, under the weight of unparalleled state repression and financial hardship, the strikers had to capitulate, and the general strike was formally called off on May 27.

A dress rehearsal

In retrospect, the response to the strike has often been seen as a dress rehearsal for the Emergency declared the following year. While the political implications of the strike must be acknowledged, considering it merely as a political campaign used by the opposition to discredit the government would be a gross simplification of the workers' motivation and collective will to carry out the campaign. The strike grew out of the railway workers' bid to address their two-decade-long grievances, which were neglected by the government and the industrial relation machinery of grievance redressal through collective actions. The general strike was a unique event, not just because it challenged the government's ability to govern; its significance further lay in the rank-and-file militancy it inspired and the wider solidarity it weaved among the railway workers, who were divided into innumerable categories and fragmented labour regimes. The impetus for the general strike came from these independent unions, not recognised ones. One of the lasting legacies of the strike was the workers' assertiveness in exercising power in their own organisations for the redressal of their grievances, thus turning the union into a site of struggle as much as an instrument of struggle.

While the strike was withdrawn unconditionally, it would be a mistake to call it a complete defeat. Once the Janata government came to power, a substantial number of casual and regular employees dismissed during the strike were reinstated. Railway workers ensured that the government accepted their demand for a bonus. Today, railway workers face similar precarity due to the pension scheme's scrapping, Railways' privatisation, increasing work casualisation, and the adverse recommendation of the Seventh Pay Commission. Various trade unions and federations of Indian Railways have again come together to resist these assaults. In the context of these renewed attacks on labour, the strike of 1974 remains relevant as a struggle.

In retrospect, the response to the strike has often been seen as a dress rehearsal for the Emergency declared the following year

A State without a capital yet

With leaders busy in vendetta politics, the people of Andhra still have no capital

STATE OF PLAY

P. Sujatha Varma
pothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

Just days before the deadline of June 2, 2024, the day when Hyderabad will cease to be the joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the political class in residual Andhra Pradesh maintains a stoic silence on the issue of choosing a capital.

As per Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Hyderabad will be the common capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for a period not exceeding 10 years with effect from June 2, 2014, the official date of the bifurcation of the combined State. The 10-year window period was given to the residual State of Andhra Pradesh to build its own capital. But Andhra Pradesh continues to be where it had started. The tragedy is that the presidents of the incumbent YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and the Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) have been pulling in different directions on the issue.

The first five years post bifurcation were marked by hullabaloo over a "world class futuristic and smart capital" at Amaravati for Andhra Pradesh. This was generated by N. Chandrababu Naidu, who was Chief Minister then. To build a "people's capital", estimated at ₹51,000 crore in 2015, Mr. Naidu acquired 33,000 acres of land from farmers through land-pooling and promised to make them a partner in the capital development plan. He roped in Singapore-based firms and paid them thousands of crores to build the project. He also pooled ₹7,500 crore from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, a couple of

hundred crores from the World Bank, and ₹1,500 crore from the Union government.

But in the 2019 elections, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP came to power. The new Chief Minister stalled all the projects and slashed the budget of the new capital to ₹500 crore. This resulted in the withdrawal of the World Bank and the Singapore firms from the project. Amaravati now looks like a ghost capital.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy's plan to decentralise development by establishing three capitals in the State has run into legal issues; the case is pending in the Supreme Court.

The people of the State blame both the Chief Ministers for being insensitive to their emotions and problems in the last 10 years. They also accuse the Congress of letting them down by implementing the bifurcation process in the most unscientific manner. It brings to their mind grim memories of the bifurcation Bill being passed without any discussions in Parliament, the mics in the Lok Sabha being switched off, the live telecast of the proceedings being stopped, and members opposing the Bill being forced out of the House by the marshals. The people feel that development in the State has taken a back seat even as leaders indulge in vendetta politics.

Though Hyderabad was declared the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh for 10 years, Mr. Naidu operated from there only for a year before moving to Vijayawada. Many people attribute his hurried shifting to his fear of an imminent arrest in the cash-for-vote scam that broke out in 2015. Some political experts feel that Hyderabad would have probably become Andhra Pradesh's permanent capital, much like how Chandigarh is the capital of Punjab and Haryana, if Mr. Naidu had stayed in the city for 10 years.

In view of the looming deadline of June 2, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has set the ball rolling for completing the distribution of assets and liabilities between the two States, a contentious issue which has been pending due to lack of consensus. After many rounds of bilateral meetings failed to address the issue, Andhra Pradesh moved the Supreme Court seeking a 'fair' division of assets and liabilities between the two States. A total of 245 institutions with a fixed asset value of ₹1.42 lakh crore are at stake. Of them, 91 come under Schedule IX and 142 under Schedule X of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. The division of another 12 institutions, not mentioned in the Act, has also become contentious.

The leaders of Andhra Pradesh are apprehensive about the Congress government in Telangana doing a fair job of the distribution process. They feel that even if Mr. Revanth Reddy makes any attempt to sort out the tangle, the Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi is bound to target him by whipping up the Telangana welfare issue again.

On the capital, there is still no clarity. Whichever party comes to power this election must address the issue; they owe it to the people.

Flight cancellations affected 1.5 lakh people since Dec. 2023

After the COVID-19 lockdowns and jet fuel hikes, aviation firms are now grappling with crew troubles

DATA POINT

Rhythanya, Sherin R., and Niha Thasneem R.

Since December 2023, hundreds of cancellations and poor on-time performance of airlines have left thousands of people stranded at airports across India. Between March 31 and April 3 this year, 150 Vistara flights were cancelled and 200 flights were delayed by more than two hours. On May 8, Air India Express cancelled 90 of its 360 flights. Similar cancellations, though not at this scale, were recorded across many large airlines at various points this year.

The recent crisis to hit the aviation industry is fuelled by the unavailability of crew. In the case of Air India Express, about 200 cabin crew reported "sick". In the case of Vistara too, crew unavailability was cited as the reason. There has been a mismatch between demand and supply of crew amid the expansion of the network.

The new troubles have come just as the aviation industry has started shrugging off the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in record losses for all airlines. During the first few months of the pandemic, in 2020, passenger flow came to a halt as airlines were grounded. In later months, passenger flow trickled in as airlines had to follow pandemic-related protocols. Despite that, airlines continued to pay salaries, airport fees, and aircraft and engine rentals and thus faced heavy losses. Later in 2022, when passenger flow returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, aviation fuel prices shot up. Airlines continued to suffer since passing on the fuel price to customers was not an option.

Chart 1 shows the cancellation rate of various airlines month-wise in the January 2022-March 2024 period. The bigger and darker the box, the higher the cancellation rate. In January 2024, 5% of IndiGo's flights, 3.4% of SpiceJet's flights, and about 2% of Air India's flights were cancelled. Even in the month prior, cancellations ranged between 1% and 2% for these airlines.

While the cancellation rate may statistically appear insignificant, the absolute number of passengers affected even when 1-2% flights get cancelled in a month is staggering. For instance, in the four months between December 2023 and March 2024, 1.5 lakh passengers couldn't travel due to cancellations. **Chart 2** shows the number of passengers affected by cancellations. When an airline with a significantly higher number of scheduled flights cancels even 1% of its flights, the number of passengers affected too is considerably higher. which explains the bigger boxes for IndiGo. In total, since January 2022, 6.5 lakh passengers have been affected by cancellations.

Cancellations result in a demand for refunds by passengers. Data show that the refund process has not been smooth. **Chart 3** shows complaints about refunds as a share of total complaints received by airlines month-wise in the January 2022-March 2024 period. In 2022, across many months, over 25% of the total complaints were about refunds. In 2023 and 2024, this share reduced to 15%, which is commendable given the high number of cancellations. But problems persist.

The on-time performance of airlines has also been drastically falling in the past two years. **Chart 4** shows the on-time performance of airlines, based on data from the Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai airports. The figure in the chart corresponds to the % of on-time (with some margin) landings and take-offs. In December 2023, the on-time performance of all major airlines fell to the lowest level in two years (SpiceJet: 30%, Air India: 47.6%, IndiGo: 60%). The poor on-time performance continued in 2024 as well. In the last two years, 45 lakh passengers have been impacted by this issue.

Off the charts

The data for the charts were sourced from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Chart 1: The bigger the square, the higher the cancellation rate (in %) of airlines in a month

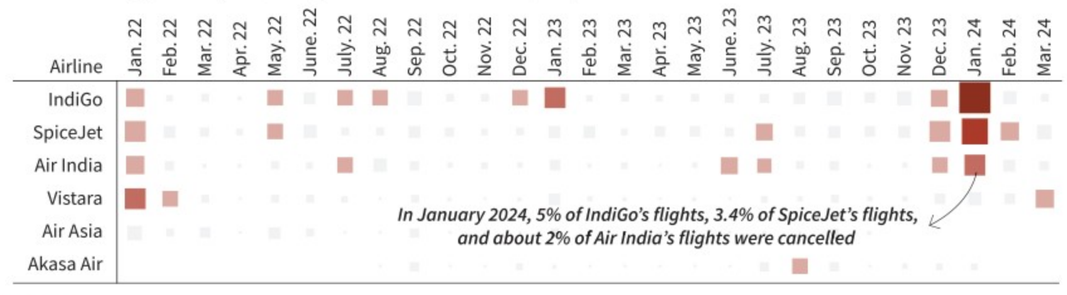


Chart 2: The bigger the square, the higher the number of passengers (absolute figures) impacted by cancellation of flights in a month

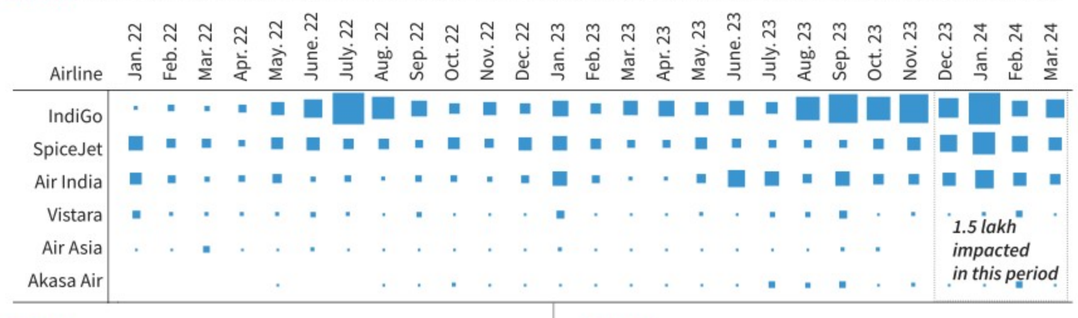
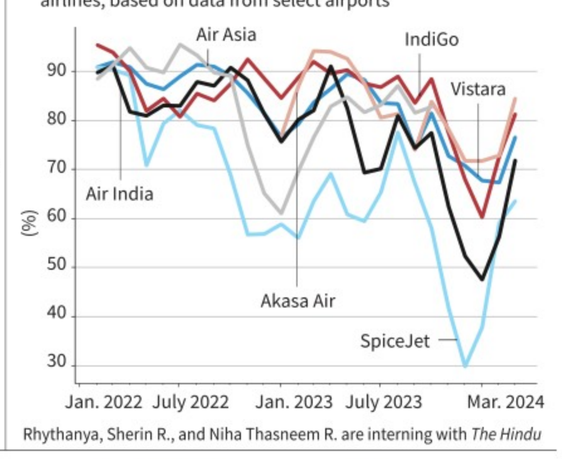


Chart 3: The chart shows complaints about refunds as a share of total complaints received by airlines month-wise

Chart 4: The chart shows the on-time performance of airlines, based on data from select airports



Rhythanya, Sherin R., and Niha Thasneem R. are interning with *The Hindu*

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 21, 1974

No political motive behind timing of test, says Sethna

Bombay, May 20: Dr. H.N. Sethna, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, asserted to-day that the timing of India's first underground nuclear test had been entirely left to him by the Government of India and that there was no political motive behind it.

He told a largely attended news conference here that the decision to conduct the test on May 18 was his and his alone and that the Union Government had no hand in it.

Asked whether the Prime Minister had asked him to undertake the test at this stage to divert the people's attention from the economic crisis facing the country, Dr Sethna emphatically declared: "It was my decision, I named the date." He told a questioner that the May 18 test was the first conducted by India and it turned out to be successful. No previous experiment was carried out.

"Experiments like this require a good deal of preparation," Dr. Sethna said adding that with India's logistics and communications if anybody could conduct a nuclear test at short notice "I will lose my job."

Asked how long it took to complete the preparations, he replied: "No comments."

The news conference began with presentation of bouquets to Dr Sethna and Dr R Ramanna, Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre by newsmen on behalf of Bombay journalists as a token of appreciation of their greatest achievement.

Asked whether a nuclear experiment had been conducted on May 16 as reported by the Delhi observatory Dr Sethna clarified that explosion perhaps occurred in some other country. "Our experiment was carried out on May 16," he declared.

(The Meteorological Department in Delhi while announcing that it recorded the Saturday's nuclear explosion in Rajasthan also said that two days earlier, i.e., on May 16, it recorded an explosion the source of which it could not locate.)

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 21, 1924

Cotton in the British Empire

London, May 23: The British Cotton Growing Association's annual report states that 178 thousand bales of cotton were grown in new fields in the British Empire last year.

From Page One

‘Urban apathy’ drives down polling to 60.4%

Alleging mismanagement by the EC, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the poll body was attempting to sabotage the election and benefit the BJP by less voting.

Polling in West Bengal, which saw the highest turnout, was marred by scattered incidents of violence. Workers of the Trinamool Congress and the BJP clashed in various parts of Barrackpore, Bongaon, and Arambagh.

The EC said it had received 1,036 complaints from different political parties alleging malfunctioning of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and agents being stopped from entering booths.

Clashes broke out between supporters of the Trinamool and the BJP in the Khanakul area of the Arambagh constituency. In Hooghly, BJP MP and candidate Locket Chatterjee was allegedly heckled when she was on her way to a booth.

Violence was also reported from various parts of the Howrah constituency. In the Bongaon constituency, a local BJP leader was allegedly beaten up by Trinamool supporters outside a booth. EVM glitches were reported from some booths in Odisha and West Bengal.

Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh saw a turnout of 57.85%, while neighbouring Amethi, where Union Minister Smriti Irani is locked in a tight contest with the Congress’s K.L. Sharma saw 54.15% turning out to vote.

The Congress claimed EVM malfunctioning and accused the BJP of not allowing people to cast votes in certain booths in Rae Bareli. “Booth number 5, Rasulpur in Sareni in Rae Bareli is closed since 8 a.m. (and) voters are going back. So this is how (the target of) 400 (seats) will be crossed!”, the Uttar Pradesh Congress said on X.

It also alleged that Samajwadi Party candidate from Gonda, Shreya Verma, complained to the EC that fair polling was not taking place at two booths in the Mankapur area of the constituency. Voters of Hisampur Madho village in Kaushambi boycotted the polls.

Voting took place for five Lok Sabha seats and 35 Assembly seats in Odisha.

Some unidentified persons allegedly hacked an autorickshaw driver to death in Bargarh district of the State. The deceased was carrying some voters to a polling booth. While the family members claimed it was a political murder, police say personal enmity was the reason behind the crime.

Of the 49 Lok Sabha seats which went to the polls on Monday, the BJP had won 32 while the Congress won only Rae Bareli in 2019.

Helicopter crash kills Iran President

Iranian authorities first raised the alarm on Sunday afternoon when they lost contact with Raisi’s helicopter as it flew through a fog-shrouded mountain area of the Jolfa region of East Azerbaijan province.

Raisi had earlier met Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev on their common border to inaugurate a dam project.

On the return trip, only two of the three helicopters in his convoy landed in the city of Tabriz, setting off a massive search and rescue effort, with multiple foreign governments soon offering help.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi at first spoke of a “hard landing” and urged citizens to ignore hostile foreign media channels and get their information “only from state television”.

As the sun rose on Monday, rescue crews said they had located the destroyed Bell 212 helicopter, with no survivors among the nine people on board.

State television channel IRIB reported that the helicopter had “hit a mountain and disintegrated” on impact.

Foreign countries had been closely following the search at a time of high regional tensions over the Gaza war raging since October 7.

Expressions of concern and offers of help had quickly come from countries including China, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey, which later offered their condolences.

Assange allowed to appeal extradition

Prior to this he had spent approximately seven years in the Ecuador Embassy in London after seeking asylum there in 2012, following charges of sexual offences in Sweden. The charges were dropped in 2017.

The U.S. Justice Department brought the case against Mr. Assange in 2019 – during the presidency of Donald Trump.

“The United States should never have brought this case,” Mr. Assange’s U.S. lawyer, Barry Pollack, told reporters at a briefing on Monday afternoon. “It is utterly inconsistent with First Amendment values,” he said, adding that he hoped the U.S. would take a hard look at today’s decision and decide whether it wanted to continue pursuing this case.

The Australian government has asked for the case to be dropped, a request U.S. President Joe Biden said his administration was “considering”.

There was much more “enthusiasm” for prosecuting this case in the Trump administration, Ms. Assange told reporters on Monday afternoon, as she urged the Biden administration to reconsider pursuing it.

India condoles President Raisi’s death; state mourning today

India stands with Iran in this time of sorrow, says Prime Minister Narendra Modi; Raisi’s contribution to strengthening the India-Iran bilateral relationship will always be remembered, he adds; Jaishankar also expresses his condolences

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India will observe state mourning on Tuesday after the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, which was confirmed by Tehran on Monday.

The helicopter carrying President Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, and other senior officials went missing on Sunday when he was returning to Tehran after inaugurating a dam in the East Azerbaijan province.

The burnt remains of the helicopter were detected in the early hours of Monday, though the circumstances surrounding its last moments are yet to be clarified.

“Deeply saddened and shocked by the tragic demise of Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His contribution to strengthening the India-Iran bilateral relationship will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Iran. India stands with Iran in this time of sorrow,” said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his message which came soon after Iran officially announced the demise of Mr. Raisi and his colleagues.

Standing by: The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi lowered its flag to half-mast following the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. ANI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also expressed condolences to the Iranian people and said, “[I] recall my many meetings with them, most recently in January 2024.”

As part of the state mourning for President Raisi, the National Flag will be flown half mast throughout India on all buildings where it is flown regularly and the Government of India will not hold any official entertainment on Tuesday, an official press release said.

Bilateral ties

Mr. Jaishankar had flown to Tehran in January when he held talks with Mr. Abdollahian and Mr. Raisi against the backdrop of the increasing number of attacks against ships by the Houthi rebels on the Red Sea. They also discussed India-Iran cooperation regarding the port of Chahbahar during that visit. India concluded a major agreement on May 13 with Iran for 10-year operation of the Chahbahar port.

The death of Mr. Raisi and Mr. Abdollahian has also cast a shadow over the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on Tuesday. Other Foreign Ministers of SCO countries have already arrived in the Kazakh capital, and sources said a decision is still to be made about how to proceed.

As the election is under way, India sent Secretary (Economic Relations) Dammu Ravi, who was due to work with other delegations to prepare the final summit agenda for the SCO summit due to be held in early August. Earlier this year, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced that all SCO leaders planned to attend the summit in Astana.

With the sudden death of Mr. Raisi, Iran is preparing for fresh elections.

Earlier, in April, Eraj Elahi, the Iranian ambassador to India had told the media here that President Raisi was expected to visit later this year.

2 sentenced to death for rape, murder of minor girl

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

A special court for the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in Rajasthan’s Bhilwara on Monday sentenced two persons to death after their conviction for raping and burning alive a 14-year-old girl in a coal furnace last August.

The incident had triggered an outrage in the State, prompting the then Congress government to order an investigation under the case officer scheme.

The minor girl went missing on August 2, 2023 morning. Her family members reached a coal furnace area while looking for her. They informed the police after detecting the girl’s charred bracelet and some bones in the furnace.

POCSO court judge Anil Kumar Gupta convicted, Kalu, 25, and Kanha, 21, and acquitted seven others.

ICMR distances itself from BHU’s study on Covaxin

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has distanced itself from a Banaras Hindu University (BHU) study for “incorrectly” associating it with an observational study on the side-effects of COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin.

The ICMR said the recently published research paper titled “Long-term safety analysis of the BBV152 coronavirus vaccine in adolescents and adults: findings from a one-year prospective study in North India” was poorly designed with critical flaws, and asked why it should not take legal and administrative action for these lapses.

In its letter to the researchers, the ICMR said it had not provided any financial or technical support for the research. ICMR Director-General Rajiv Bahl called the paper “poorly designed”, and said it “incorrectly and misleadingly” acknowledges financial or technical support from the ICMR. “ICMR cannot be associated with this poorly designed study,” the letter says.

The ICMR said it has not given any financial or technical support for the research.

“We the authors would like to state that all communications received by us from ICMR are treated with utmost respect as confidential. We have already mailed the DG-ICMR with copy to the Director, IMS. We do not wish to make any other statements as we are scientists and do not like getting involved in unnecessary public controversies,” the authors of the paper informed *The Hindu*.

In a press release on Monday, BHU noted that the “university has taken note of a study in connection with Covaxin after-effects and a series of reactions in that regard”.

“We are aware of the communication made by the ICMR to the concerned individuals. The Institute of Medical Sciences is looking into the matter. It is also working on further strengthening and improving its research ecosystem,” the BHU said.

The ICMR has directed BHU to immediately remove the “acknowledgement to ICMR” for the study and publish an *erratum*.

“We have also noticed that you have similarly acknowledged ICMR in similar previous papers without permission. Please explain why ICMR should not seek legal and administrative action against you,” it noted.

In its letter, the ICMR listed out critical flaws with the study and said that it did not have a control group of unvaccinated individuals to prove that the side-effects were indeed associated with vaccination. Also it did not mention how frequently these adverse events were reported by the sample population to establish that they were associated with vaccination. It said the study tool was not consistent with the definition of “adverse events of special interest” that is globally accepted, and the responses of the participants were recorded one year after immunisation without verification of any clinical records or physician examination.

ED alleges irregularities in donations received by AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two documents of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging irregularities in the donations received by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) during 2014-2022 from sources in several countries surfaced on Monday, days ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Delhi on May 25.

Reacting to the allegations, senior AAP Leader Atishi said that since it was founded, the AAP had functioned with full transparency and that every rupee it received through donations had been shown to the Election Commission, the Income-Tax Department, and every other institution in the country.

Calling it a political conspiracy by the BJP, Ms. Atishi said: “The AAP has given its reply to the CBI, ED, MHA, and EC on this matter. Such false allegations brought up before the election will not be believed by the people of Delhi and Punjab who are going to vote.”

The papers comprise purported details shared by the agency with the Union Home Ministry on October 27, 2022, and on August 4, 2023. They allege that the AAP received foreign funds in violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), the Representation of the People Act, and the Indian Penal Code. Political parties are prohibited from taking funds from any foreign source defined under the FCRA.

> AAP has given its reply to the CBI, ED, MHA, and EC. Such false allegations brought up before the polls will not be believed by the people who are going to vote
>
> **ATISHI**
> Senior AAP leader

According to the documents, the AAP received donations from those residing in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and so on. It has been alleged that real identities of many donors were concealed and funds were also directly deposited to the party’s IDBI bank account.

The ED detected the alleged irregularities during its probe into an international cartel involved in the smuggling of heroin from Pakistan to India. The agency had searched the premises of then AAP MLA from Bholath in Punjab, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who was summoned as an accused to face trial, and his associates. It seized documents purportedly containing details of foreign donations.

The agency alleged that the scrutiny of the seized documents revealed receipt of foreign donations totalling to $1,19,000. In his statement, Mr. Khaira allegedly disclosed that the money was collected via overseas fund-raising campaign in the U.S. organised by the AAP in April-May 2015.

The ED summoned an AAP functionary who submitted the related documents. As alleged, the agency found that 155 persons residing abroad had donated ₹1.02 crore on 404 occasions using 55 passport numbers; 71 had used 21 mobile numbers for making total donations of about ₹99.90 lakh on 256 occasions; and 75 donors have used 15 credit cards for donating over ₹19.92 lakh on 148 occasions.

Questions arise over future of Parliament security unit

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) took over the security of most parts of the Parliament on Monday, questions swirl around the future of the unarmed Parliament Security Service (PSS) unit, the existence of which coincides with the adoption of the Constitution in 1950.

The unit, formerly known as the Watch and Ward staff, initially came into existence in 1929 after Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt dropped bombs on the Central Legislative Assembly, currently the old Parliament building or the Samvidhan Sadan. A new Parliament building facing the old structure was inaugurated last year.

Officials questioned the handing over of key functions to the CISF, one of the only paramilitary forces with limited experience in interacting with the public – at airports and Metro stations.

Apprehensions abound

While the orders for deploying the CISF in the lobby and the precincts of the new Parliament building are yet to be announced, officials said a PSS component will have to be retained as the CISF officials may not be adept in recognising the MPs or former members or preventing the entry of an “imposter”.

“PSS is well-trained to interact with MPs, former MPs, etc. It is their House. There is a difference between handling airport security and Parliament, an autonomous body. I have not seen any such order till now about CISF induction taking place on the orders of the Speaker, the ultimate authority. The orders are being issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which sets a wrong precedent,” said P.D.T. Achary, constitutional expert and former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.

The orders for deploying CISF in the precincts of the new Parliament building are yet to be announced. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

It was under Mr. Achary’s tenure that the Watch and Ward staff was renamed the PSS in 2008. He added that replacing the PSS would pose a risk and that even every State Assembly had their own Watch and Ward staff to facilitate the elected representatives.

Tiruchi Siva, Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu, told *The Hindu* that he was stopped thrice by the CISF personnel on Monday. “I was in Parliament to attend a programme, the CISF personnel stopped me thrice and checked my identity card. This was not the case earlier as PSS staff recognised us and facilitated the entry,” Mr. Siva said, adding that the PSS was an integral part of Parliament security.

Last week, the Parliament Duty Group of the Central Reserve Police Force (CPRF) deployed for peripheral security was withdrawn. Earlier, the Delhi Police deployed for frisking and scanning of bags were also removed from Parliament security responsibilities. The last time such large-scale changes were made was after the December 13, 2001, terror attack when terrorists stormed the building. Two PSS officials, Matbar Singh Negi and Jagdish Prasad Yadav, were killed while performing their duty.

A week after a security breach was reported in the new building on December 13, 2023, the MHA accorded in-principle approval to the CISF to survey the Parliament premises and its buildings for regular deployment of personnel on a comprehensive pattern under the Government Building Security.

The overall security is administered by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

An uncertain future

This development has several PSS officials worried about their future. “We were hired by the Parliament Secretariat. Since morning, our attendance application has replaced the subject Parliament of India with Government of India. We are hearing that they will force us to retire at 55. No fresh hirings have been done in the past 10 years,” said a PSS official.

There are around 600 PSS officials deployed in Parliament at various ranks.

ELECTIONS 2024

ODISHA

Vital voices: Women voting at a special polling booth in Kandhamal district of south Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

KASHMIR

Queuing up: Voters waiting in line to cast their ballots at a polling station in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. NISSAR AHMAD

WEST BENGAL

In order: People getting their names checked on the voters' list inside a polling station in Howrah district of West Bengal. REUTERS

UTTAR PRADESH

In the frontline: Women waiting in queue to vote at a polling booth in Lucknow on Monday. SANDEEP SAXENA

A first-time voter outside a unique polling station in the remote Warshi village near the Siachen Glacier base camp in Ladakh after voting on Monday. REUTERS

In first election since U.T. status, Ladakh records 69.62% turnout

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency recorded 69.62% voting, till 11.50 p.m. on Monday, in its first-ever election since the region was converted into a Union Territory in 2019.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory, Leh district, where Buddhists are in majority, recorded 64.9% polling, and Kargil, Ladakh's Muslim-majority district, recorded 74% voting.

There has been a downward trend in Ladakh's voting. From 73.52% polling in 2004, it touched 71.05% in 2019 and dropped further this year. Ladakh has witnessed a growing trend of migration of local students and businessmen outside the Union Territory.

That said, many see this election as crucial for pushing the demands of Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

'Crucial election'

"Today, we have the opportunity to participate in the festival of democracy. This might be our last chance to choose the right government, so it's crucial to use our precious vote wisely," Syed Kazim Hussaini, a voter from Kargil, said.

Sajjad Kargili, who withdrew his nomination to support Independent candidate Haji Hanifa Jan, said he voted "to strengthen and support the development and democracy in India, particularly in Ladakh".

The Lok Sabha election in Ladakh is being held against the backdrop of Leh and Kargil residents demanding Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule. While the BJP and the INDIA bloc have fielded two Buddhist candidates, Mr. Kargili has backed an Independent Muslim candidate.

"I cast my valuable vote for a better future for Ladakh and India," Konchok Stanzin, a councillor from Chushul, said.

There are 1,84,804 voters spread over a vast region. An official said it had taken days to ensure staff and machines reached the polling booths in high-altitude areas. He said a polling booth was set up for five voters at Warshi village near the Siachen Glacier base camp and Anley Phu near the India-China Border. These areas are at an altitude of 15,520 ft.

With 58.17% vote, ice melts in Baramulla

Women take the lead in voting in many areas; relatives of active militants and even the cadre of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami came out to exercise their franchise; the previous best turnout in the constituency was 46.65% in 1996; Omar Abdullah, Sajad Lone and Engineer Rashid are in the fray

Peerzada Ashiq
BARAMULLA

A shift in the voting pattern in the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in the Kashmir Valley pushed the polling percentage to 58.17% by 11.50 p.m. on Monday, breaking the previous record of 46.65% in 1996.

An unprecedented number of women, relatives of active militants and even cadres of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) turned up to cast their votes.

"Zero violence was reported during voting in Baramulla. Poll percentage increased from 4% in 2019 to 44% in Sopore," said P.K Pole, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

The scene in Sopore in Baramulla district was in contrast to the past when a trickle of voters would walk gingerly towards deserted polling booths. Sopore registered the highest turnout in three decades. It is a bastion of the JeI and the home town of senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, president of the Sopore Market, was among the senior citizens who cast their votes for the first time in their lives. "Turnout in Sopore would be 1% or 2% in the past. Because of the situation, I never voted all these years. People voted this time to see development and prosperity in Sopore, which is facing both an acute water and power crisis. Youth also came forward," Mr. Ganie said.

Several voters in the town talked about their concerns, including the harsh process of police verification for jobs, sealing of houses and denial of passports for being relatives of militants and separatists. "We hope the elected representatives will put an end to this harsh process," a voter said, on the condition of anonymity.

D-day duty: Voters queue up to cast their ballots at a polling station in Pattan in Baramulla district on Monday. NISSAR AHMAD

Dawood Mir, brother of active militant Bilal Mir, said he had come to vote for "Sopore's development". Two other brothers of his are in jail because of the sibling who is a militant, he said. "One brother is in the Kupwara jail and another in a Jammu jail. We will try our best to bring our militant brother home. But I request the government to release my brothers," he said. Family members of other active militants such as Omar, Abid Qayoom and Umar Lone from Baramulla district also came to exercise their franchise.

Scores of banned JeI members were seen voting in the Baramulla-Handwara-Sopore belt. "I have been voting since 1969. It was because of rigging in 1987 that our faith in the electoral process got eroded. If rigging is not allowed and the ban on the JeI is lifted, we will contest. Even otherwise we will come out and vote. I made the decision (to vote) after gauging the situation," Ghulam Qadir Lone, a JeI member, said.

Large numbers of women queued up outside polling booths, often outnumbering men. In the first six hours (till 1 p.m.), Sopore recorded 55,959 votes by women and 55,385 by men; Baramulla town recorded 63,375 votes from women and 63,303 votes from men; Pattan registered 51,525 votes from women and 50,730 votes from men; and Trehgam had 39,547 votes from women and 38,802 votes from men.

"We are voting to end helplessness. We are voting to secure the future of our youth. We yearn for a lasting peace," said a woman voter in Trehgam.

As many as 22 candidates are contesting the Baramulla seat, which has a total of 17.47 lakh voters. The fight is mainly between Omar Abdullah (National Conference), Sajad Lone (J&K People's Conference) and Engineer Rashid (Awami Ittehad Party). Mr. Rashid, who was jailed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has been in the Tihar prison since August 2019.

Violence and altercation between candidates mark West Bengal Phase 5 polling

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Amid incidents of violence and a charged political atmosphere, West Bengal registered a 76.05% turnout in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha election.

Among the seven Lok Sabha constituencies that went to the polls on Monday, Arambag registered the highest polling at 79.5%.

Isolated incidents of violence were reported from Barrackpore, Bongaon, and Arambagh, and passions ran high when candidates contesting for Opposition parties were confronted by supporters of the Trinamool Congress.

At Dhanekhali in Hooghly district, BJP candidate Locket Chatterjee came face to face with Trinamool Congress MLA Asima Patra, and slogans were raised by both sides.

While Trinamool supporters led by Ms. Patra raised slogans of *Joy Bangla*, the BJP's supporters responded with "Jai Shri Ram".

A voter shows her ink-marked finger after casting her vote in West Bengal on Monday. ANI

"You are a thief," Ms. Chatterjee shouted at Ms. Patra, who responded, "You are a dacoit." At Chandannagar in the Hooghly Lok Sabha Constituency, women with slippers in hand tried to accost Ms. Chatterjee.

Tension in Barrackpore

Tension prevailed in Barrackpore, where BJP candidate Arjun Singh faced protests by Trinamool supporters and was seen using unparliamentary language in public. At Manirampur in Barrackpore, the police and Central forces had to use force to disperse a mob that was targeting Mr. Singh.

In the Uluberia Lok Sabha constituency, Left-supported Congress candidate Ajhar Mullick was seen chasing Trinamool supporters from a polling booth.

Clashes broke out between supporters of the Trinamool and the BJP in the Khanakul area of the Arambagh constituency as both parties clashed over stopping polling agents from entering the booths. In the Gayeshpur area of the Bongaon constituency, local BJP leader Subir Biswas was allegedly beaten by Trinamool goons outside a booth. He was later shifted to hospital.

There were reports of violence from the Liluah area of Howrah, where the BJP accused Trinamool workers of booth jamming, leading to clashes between both groups.

Mumbai turnout low after voting slows to a crawl; many leave without casting vote

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Despite an energetic campaign for 13 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region saw a low voter turnout, plagued by complaints of missing names, inadequate facilities, and a slow voting process.

Voters in several parts of Mumbai reported waiting in long lines for over an hour because of the slow voting pace. Many left without casting their vote owing to the lengthy wait, compounded by the humidity and scorching temperatures. Maharashtra recorded an average polling of 54.33% on Monday, lower than the 55.38% turnout in 2019.

Of the 13 constituencies spread across the Mumbai region and north Maharashtra, the highest turnout was at Dindori in Nashik district at 62.66%, while the lowest was in Kalyan in Thane district at 47.08% according to provisional data from the Election Commission (EC).

Wait on: Long queue outside a polling Station at Bandra East in Mumbai on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"We came to the booth at 12.30 p.m., and now it is already 1.30 p.m. I don't understand how long we need to wait. There is no proper seating arrangement, only three booths and so many people waiting," said Sneha Kumar, a first-time voter waiting to cast her vote in Dharavi.

Congress leader Muzaffar Hussain alleged that names of several voters from Mira Road-Bhayandar and Thane were missing from the electoral rolls. "Without verifying and checking, the EC has deliberately deleted the names of many voters from the list," he said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya criticised the poll body for the slow pace of voting in Mumbai, alleging that EC officials were delaying voting in areas where his party traditionally received more votes.

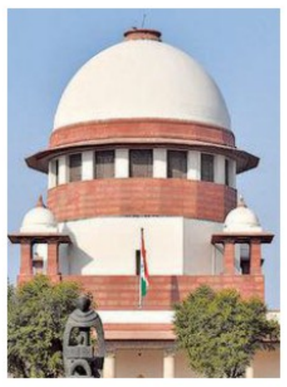
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis quickly responded to the complaints, and urged the EC to address the complaints of the slow voting process in the city.

SC refuses woman's plea for postal ballot

Justice Bela M. Trivedi, heading a Supreme Court Vacation Bench, orally remarked "everybody would like to sit at home and cast their votes" while dismissing a 78-year-old woman's plea to exercise her constitutional right by postal ballot.

The Bench on Monday dismissed the plea by Sarla Srivastav who said she was suffering from severe osteoarthritis in both knees and had been bedridden for the past three months. She had wanted to vote by postal ballot for elections in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh which went to the polls on May 7.

Her petition was an appeal against the Chhattisgarh High Court's refusal to give her permission to vote through postal ballot in an order on May 6. The court had said it was too late to do anything.



Justice Bela M. Trivedi says 'everybody would like to sit at home and cast their votes'.

Calcutta HC pulls up BJP for its advertisements

The Calcutta High Court on Monday issued an injunction restraining the BJP from publishing advertisements that violate the election code until June 4, the day the Lok Sabha election process ends.

The court, in the injunction order, also restrained the BJP from publishing advertisements mentioned by the Trinamool Congress in its petition claiming unverified allegations against it and its workers. It also criticised the Election Commission (EC) for not addressing the complaints promptly.

Counsel appearing for the Trinamool contended before the court that it is being prejudiced by some newspaper advertisements by the BJP, claiming violation of the poll code and media compendium issued by the commission. PTI

"The soul of Duryodhan has entered the Congress... That is why they say that Muslims have the first right over the country's resources

YOGI ADITYANATH
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Election official dies on duty at polling station

A 56-year-old election officer died of a heart attack at a polling booth in the Mumbai South Lok Sabha constituency where polling was under way on Monday, the police said. After Sunil Laxman collapsed, he was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died during treatment, an official said. PTI

"When you think he [Modi] cannot lie anymore, he speaks another lie... Modi himself speaks of 'shamshan, kabristan', Yogi speaks of 80/20

SAGARIKA GHOSE
Trinamool leader

INBRIEF

18 killed, 4 injured as goods vehicle plunges into valley

Seventeen women and a man were killed and four others injured when a mini goods vehicle plunged into a valley in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district on Monday, the police said. The victims, after plucking *tendu* leaves from a forest, were returning in the vehicle meant for transporting goods, he said. The vehicle skidded off the road, tumbled down considerably and crashed onto the road below the valley, the official said. After being alerted, a police team rushed to the spot and launched the rescue exercise, he added. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai condoled the deaths and instructed to provide the best medical assistance to the injured. PTI

SC dismisses plea challenging three new criminal laws

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the three new criminal laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill. A Vacation Bench of Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Justice Pankaj Mithal allowed petitioner-advocate Vishal Tiwari to withdraw, saying he narrowly escaped imposition of costs for filing the petition. Justice Trivedi noted the new Acts have not come into force so far. The petition claimed the new laws, meant to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Evidence Act, suffered from 'discrepancies'.

Mamata's offensive against monks stirs the poll plot

The remarks by Bengal Chief Minister have drawn a sharp response from Prime Minister Modi, who has accused her of trying to appease her vote bank under pressure from fundamentalists

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Halfway through the Lok Sabha election in West Bengal, Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee has opened a new front, against Hindu monks, stirring the poll plot in the State.

For the second time in three days, the Chief Minister targeted a prominent monk of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha and blamed him for the riots at Beldanga in Murshidabad during Ram Navami processions last month.

"If he wants to do BJP, he can, but he should do it wearing its badge," Ms. Banerjee said at a rally in Bankura district, referring to Kartick Maharaj of the BSS, The Chief Minister said the monk was earlier associated with Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and now was with the BJP.

While singling out Kartick Maharaj, the Trinamool leader tried to do a course correction and said she was not against any organisation. "I am not against Ramakrishna Mission (RKM). Why should I be against an institution and show disrespect? Even I paid a visit to *maharaj* (former head of the mission) when he was ill. I have only talked about one or two people," she said. She praised the BSS, and said it did philanthropic work.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee waves to the supporters during an election rally in Bankura on Sunday. ANI

On Saturday, the Chief Minister had said that she "does not consider *sadhus* (monks) who indulge in politics as *sadhus*". Her remarks were directed at certain monks of the BSS, the RKM and ISKCON.

A day later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Chief Minister was trying to "appease her vote bank under pressure from Muslim fundamentalists". On Monday, he said Ms. Banerjee was threatening Hindu monks from an open platform.

Mr. Modi said that after Ms. Banerjee's remarks, an ashram of the RKM was attacked in Jalpaiguri district. Describing the RKM, the BSS and ISKCON as part of West Bengal's spiritual heritage, the Prime Minister said, "Bengal will not accept the insult on Ramakrishna Mission" and other Hindu organisations.

Kartick Maharaj, who is also known as Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj, has sent a legal notice to Ms. Banerjee, demanding an apology for her alleged defamatory remarks about the organisation.

The development comes at a time when there have been attempts to polarise the election campaign. The BJP leadership has accused the Trinamool of trying to make Hindus second grade citizens in the State, whereas leaders of the Trinamool have made communally charged statements for which the Election Commission had to take note and issue notice. Also, a section of imams in West Bengal has issued a press statement asking people to vote for the Trinamool to defeat the BJP.

Political analyst and psephologist Biswanath Chakraborty said Ms. Banerjee's remarks will lead to polarisation of Hindu votes.

"Elections in semi-urban and urban areas are yet to be held and these organisations have a large following among the Hindu population. The remarks by the Chief Minister are ill-timed. Moreover, it also exposes the double standards because she is silent on the letter of imams and is targeting monks who are associated with political activities," he said.

Naveen's office and home taken over by miscreants, says PM

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the Odisha Chief Minister's Office and residence had been taken over by miscreants, and this set-up would be taken apart when the saffron party came to power.

In what is being viewed as the shrillest of attacks Mr. Modi has mounted on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his close aide V.K. Pandian, a Tamil Nadu-born former IAS official, during his whirlwind tours to Odisha this election, the Prime Minister said the mafia was controlling everything and not allowing anyone to compete.

Mr. Modi said there were discussions about how the keys of Ratna Bhandar, the inner chamber of Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri, had gone to Tamil Nadu. "Even Jagannath Mandir is not safe under Biju Janata Dal rule. For the past six years, the keys of Shri Jagannatha's 'Ratna Bhandar' have been missing. Leaders of the BJD are involved in this conspiracy. Once the BJP forms the government in Odisha, we will make the report of the Commission of Inquiry public," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets supporters at Puri.

Mr. Modi reiterated that Odisha continued to lag in its development path despite the State possessing huge natural resources. Thousands of youth and farmers were leaving the State in search of work. "I am deeply hurt," he said.

More promises

The Prime Minister urged voters to give the BJP an opportunity for five years as they had given 25 years to the BJD. "Give BJP a chance and I assure you, a person belonging to Odisha who knows the tradition and culture of the State will become the Chief Minister," he said.

He also promised to increase the minimum support price of paddy to ₹3,100 a quintal and said that farmers would get the money directly in the bank accounts within 48 hours.

Odisha records nearly 70% turnout amid stray incidents of violence

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The second phase of simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha ended with stray incidents of violence being reported on Monday.

The provisional voter turnout in the polling for five Lok Sabha constituencies and 35 Assembly segments stood at 69.34% at 11.50 p.m.

The Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency polled 76.2% votes followed by Bolangir with 71.46%, Kandhamal 70.37%, Sundargarh 67.74%, and Aska 60.78%.

Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Behari Dhal said, "We came to know from our webcasting camera, that there were long queues at different polling booths. Voting was affected in Bhanjanagar and Daringbadi areas due to heavy rains and hailstorms."

Citizen voice: Voters queue up to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha election in Odisha on Monday. ANI

The first phase of elections in the State had seen over 75% of voters exercising their rights in four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly seats on May 13.

This phase sealed the fate of heavyweight leaders, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, former Indian hockey captain and former Union Minister Dilip Tirkey, and State Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Amat.

This time, Mr. Patnaik is contesting two Assembly seats – his traditional Hinjili seat in his home district of Ganjam and Kantabanji in Balangir district.

While polling was going on in the Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency, an autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death. The murder took place near Sarsara village, barely 300 metres away from the polling booth.

Though family members claimed this was an outcome of political rivalry, the police said the real intent of the murder would be ascertained only after investigation.

Congress seeks report from West Bengal in-charge over defacing of Kharge's posters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Terming the defacing of posters of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in front of the party's State headquarters in Kolkata an act of "gross indiscipline", the Congress on Monday asked its West Bengal in-charge to submit a report.

Mr. Kharge, in an interview to the news agency PTI on Monday, described West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as a "fighter" of his party, and asserted that the Congress was in an alliance with the Left in Bengal.

On Sunday, several posters and hoardings of Mr. Kharge were defaced with ink and "agent of Trinamool Congress" written over them after Mr. Chowdhury was snubbed by Mr. Kharge for questioning Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee's loyalty to the INDIA bloc.

Mallikarjun Kharge

Sources said Mr. Chowdhury had asked party workers to lodge a formal police complaint and remove the defaced posters.

Issuing a stern warning, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said it had been brought to the notice of the party high command that a few office-bearers and workers of the party had made certain uncharitable remarks against Mr. Kharge.

".. The Indian National Congress shall not tolerate such public display of defiance and indiscipline," he said.

Political tussle

On May 18, Mr. Kharge said, "She [Ms. Banerjee] recently said that she will join the government. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will not take the decision. The decision will be taken by me and the high command, and those who do not agree will go out."

Reacting to this, Mr. Chowdhury had said, "I cannot speak in favour of someone who wants to finish me and our party in Bengal politically. I do not want the State Congress to be used for her [Ms. Banerjee's] personal agenda."

(With PTI inputs)

Was once a member of RSS: Calcutta HC judge

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash, who retired as a judge of the Calcutta High Court on Monday, said he was a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha (RSS).

Speaking at his farewell at the High Court in the presence of the judges and members of the bar, Justice Dash said he was "ready to go back to the organisation" if it called him for any assistance or for any work that he was capable of doing.

Justice Dash said he had distanced himself from the organisation for about 37 years because of his work.

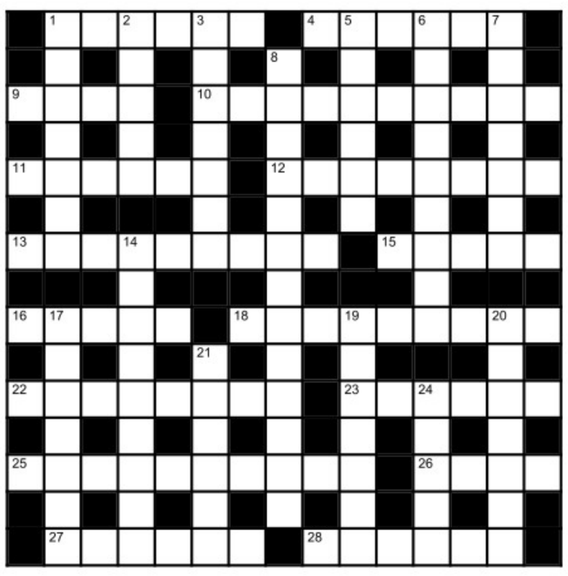
Demitting office after over 14 years as a judge, Justice Dash came to the Calcutta High Court from the Orissa High Court on transfer.

TH CROSSWORD + 14180

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Part-time auditor at Southern University submits a bill ultimately... (6)
4 ...working as stopgap (6)
9 Weight of the wrapper starts with ten and reduces exponentially (4)
10 Device used in the past vehicle with misgiving and hesitation (4,6)
11 Basically third son has material (6)
12 Abstain from tea as per advice? Perfect (8)
13 Hungry lady, out of work after constant stalking by people, church officials (9)
15 Discreet company in California at county border (5)
16 Warns Cristiano and Ronaldo diving slyly in the front (5)
18 These are used to log-in and take drastic measures to suppress news upfront (9)
22 These days, getting order one becomes blue (8)
23 Infosys temporarily prevented usage (6)
25 English dramatist takes chicken on Christmas (4,6)
26 Ball gets bat's edge and drops basically (4)
27 An alternative to her? Primarily it's terribly exciting in a bad way (6)
28 Withdraw or lead, but not quietly (6)

Down

1 Type of cable, cord that is cut in half having 1111 etched on left (7)
2 Descriptions on glasses (5)
3 Pseudoscience my chapel disseminates without pressure (7)
5 My optician finally provides a drug in counter for part of the eye (6)
6 Lover's in a marriage basically, or one troubled initially, acting (9)
7 Explosive is unsophisticated, missing the core, made without cap (7)
8 Relatives get rest in brawl; Oh, they are relaxed (8-2-3)
14 Fish and wine, think about poetry essentially (3,6)
17 Marine polyps, one born around first working day of the week (7)
19 Rest in lodge across university (7)
20 European general holding a container in lift (7)
21 Sit behind editor, facing the other side and dismiss (6)
24 Fighter bashed grabbing from the back with a weapon (5)

SUDOKU

						1		5
				3	5			9
9		5			2		3	
	6		5		9	3		
1								7
		8	2		3		6	
	1		4			6		8
7			8	5				
8		4						

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	L	O	U	R		T	E	A	M	A	K	E	R
	P		V		U		E		I		N		L	
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					R		L		O		E		R	
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	R		R		O		I		H					
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M	E	E	T	I	N	G	S		T	A	H	I	T	I

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	1	3	4	2	5	9	8
3	9	5	6	1	8	4	7	2
2	8	4	5	9	7	1	6	3
5	4	3	1	8	9	6	2	7
8	1	7	2	3	6	9	5	4
6	2	9	4	7	5	8	3	1
1	7	2	9	6	4	3	8	5
4	5	6	8	2	3	7	1	9
9	3	8	7	5	1	2	4	6

FAITH

Greatness of Nammazhwar

In Vaishnavism, when one says Koil it is understood to refer to Srirangam, and Tiumalai would refer to Tiruvengadam, Similarly, the word Azhwar by itself is held to refer to Nammazhwar, who is celebrated as the chief among the Vaishnavite saints, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse. His contribution to bringing the scriptures home to the layman is unparalleled, which is why he towers over the others. Saints and seers have celebrated Nammazhwar as the embodiment of the Vaishnavite preceptors. While Nammazhwar himself is equated as the atma, all the other Azhwars constitute different parts of the body. Nammazhwar is known as *Vedam Tamil seidha maran*, since he brought the four vedas, originally in Sanskrit, to the Tamils as Prabhandams. The essence of the Rig Veda is Tiru Viruttam, Yajur Veda is Tiru Asiriyam, Sama Veda is rendered as Tiruvaimozhi and Atharvana Veda is presented as Periya Tiruvandathi. Born in the Tamil month of Vaikasi under the Visakam star, he churned his tongue in order to distil the vedas and present them to bhaktas, just as how Perumal churned the milky ocean to bring up the nectar of immortality to devas.

Like the four-faced Brahma, who gave Sanskrit Vedas to the world, Nammazhwar too is hailed as four-faced since he rendered Vedas in 4 attributes.

INBRIEF

Hero MotoCorp to expand EV range to cater to more clients

Hero MotoCorp is looking to expand its presence in the electric two-wheeler segment as it aims to introduce new models below its current range to cater to a broader set of customers, a senior company official said. "We are expanding our portfolio in the first half of this year (current fiscal).. into the mid and the mass segment as well," Hero MotoCorp Chief Business Officer – Emerging Mobility B.U. Swadesh Srivastava said during an analysts' call. PTI

India Cements Q4 net loss narrows to ₹50.06 cr. on sales

India Cements Ltd. on Monday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to ₹50.06 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2024, on improved sales volume. The company had posted a net loss of ₹243.77 crore in the same quarter a year earlier, India Cements Ltd. said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the quarter under review was at ₹1,266.65 crore as against ₹1,485.73 crore in the corresponding period a year earlier. PTI

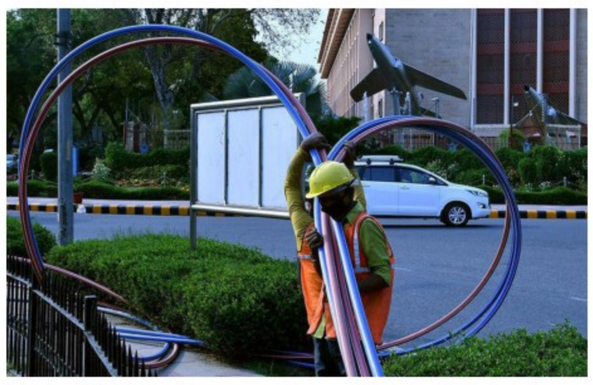
Wheels India Q4 PAT surges 64%, to pay ₹7.39 dividend

Wheels India Ltd. reported fourth-quarter net profit grew 64.3% to ₹36.8 crore compared with ₹22.4 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 was lower at ₹1,167 crore compared with ₹1,172 crore in the same period last year. For FY24, the company's net profit increased 8.6% to ₹67.9 crore compared with ₹62.5 crore in the previous year. The company's board has recommended a dividend of ₹7.39 per share.

SC agrees to waive telcos' interest on I-T dues on licence fee

The Court observed 'the peculiar facts of the case and lapse of time in litigation with regard to the Telecom Policy', passing its May 17 order

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI


Burden lifted: The telcos urged the court to waive the interest payable on the tax for the period beginning 2000-2001 KAMAL NARANG

The Supreme Court has given a major relief for telecom service providers, including Bharti Airtel, Reliance and Vodafone Idea, by waiving off interest due on income tax arising from an October 16, 2023 judgment, which held that telecom licence fee should be treated as entirely "capital in nature".

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyyan agreed to a waiver of the interest levy after the assessees (telcos) said payment of the tax demand from the year 2000-2001 was itself a "heavy burden". The telcos had urged the court to at least waive the interest payable on the tax for the period.

Centre objects

Additional Solicitor General N. Venkataraman, appearing for the income tax department, had objected to the request. He had contended that it was only logical for the assessees to pay the interest if they were meeting the tax demand.

After giving thoughtful consideration to the submissions, the Bench, in a four-page order dated May 17, published on Monday, directed that "since the judgment of this court is dated October 16, 2023, and having regard to the Telecom Policy, which commenced from the year 1999, the payment of interest for the period for which the tax demand is now to be met in respect of these cases stands waived".

'Not a precedent'

However, the court made it clear that the order would not act as a precedent.

"The order shall not be a precedent in any other case as we have passed this order bearing in mind the peculiar facts of this case and having regard to the lapse of time in litigation," the Bench underscored.

The National Telecom Policy of 1994 was substituted by the new Telecom Policy in July 1999.

Telecom Policy 1999

The 1999 policy had stipulated that a licencee (telco) would be required to pay a one-time entry fee, and additionally, a licence fee on a percentage share of gross revenue.

The October 2023 judgment had concluded that the payment of the licence fee was "intrinsic to the existence of the licence as well as trade itself. Such a payment has to be treated or characterised as capital only". "Consequence of non-payment would result in ouster of the licensee from the trade," the Supreme Court had observed in its October judgment.

The apex court judgment was based on appeals against a Delhi High Court judgment of December 2013. The High Court had confirmed an Income Tax Appellate Tribunal finding that the variable licence fee paid by telcos under the 1999 policy was revenue expenditure and not capital.

CCI's Kaur bats for new analytical tools for digital market

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

To deal with competition challenges posed by digital markets, CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur pitched for regulatory agility, new analytical tools and possibly, novel regulatory frameworks, specifically tailored to the digital context.

While stressing on the need for a nuanced approach blending traditional competition analysis with a deep understanding of digital-market dynamics, she said issues such as "algorithmic collusion" pose novel challenges for regulators. The CCI has been taking steps to address anti-competitive concerns in digital markets.

The CCI will be conducting a market study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) that will be aimed at developing an in-depth understanding of the emerging competition dynamics in the development ecosystems of AI.

She said the transformative capabilities of AI have significant pro-competition potential. At the same time, there may be competition concerns emanating from the use of AI, she said, adding there is a growing emphasis on consumer welfare in the formulation and enforcement of competition law.

"Authorities are increasingly considering the broader impact of new age business practices on consumer choice, innovation, and overall market health beyond just price effects."

'Much ado about nothing', says govt., on spice export worries

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

'Maximum residue limit for EtO, used as a fumigant for food crops, is different across countries'

Downplaying concerns about the safety of India's spices and food exports, stemming from recent recalls of a few batches of spices by countries like Hong Kong and Singapore, the government is working with industry players to help ensure compliance with varying pesticide residue standards in different countries.

Last Friday, neighbouring Nepal banned four spice-mix products from Indian firms citing 'suspected ethylene oxide (EtO) contamination, an issue that was first flagged by Hong Kong after testing a few batches of products from Indian firms Everest and MDH. Senior government officials said the Hong Kong episode was likely caused because of laxity from distributors who might have shipped a few consignments there, that were originally meant for some other markets.

"The maximum residue limit for EtO, which is used as a fumigant for food crops, is different across countries, and the impact of this chemical's residue in food is not a settled issue. Moreover, if not aerated properly, it effectively converts into a metabolite 2 C-E (Chloroethanol)," an official said, requesting anonymity.

While Hong Kong prohibits the use of EtO in food products, Singapore allows EtO residue of 50 milligrams (mg) per kilogram, and the European Union pegs it at 0.02 mg to 0.1 mg per kilo for different food products. The U.S. and Canada permit EtO residue of up to 7 mg and 2 C-E residue of 940 mg, per kilo.

"India's spices exports had grown 13.5% in 2023-24 to hit $4.2 billion and 99.8% of the 1.4 million tonnes shipped out last year had met the quality requirements of different countries. Even in marine products, 99.88% of the 1.76 million tonnes exported last year met importing nations' quality norms," stressed another official.

Over the past month, the government has held three consultations with spices exporters and shared comprehensive guidelines to avoid possible contamination of EtO at all stages of the supply chain, from sourcing the product to packaging, transportation, and testing.

For Singapore- and Hong Kong-bound shipments, sampling and testing for EtO have been made mandatory. Separately, efforts are underway to put in place a traceability mechanism for spices, from farm to the export market, as done in the case of peanuts and grapes and products with Geographical Indicator status such as Darjeeling Tea.

Airbus Helicopters, SIDBI sign MoU for helicopter financing

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.

Under the MoU, Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI would identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters.

While Airbus would provide technical and helicopter-industry knowledge, SIDBI would be responsible for evaluating the prospects and financing them exclusively for Airbus.

"This is expected to open new avenues for financing MSMEs related to this segment," said Rahul Priyadarshi, Chief General Manager, SIDBI.

The MoU "opens a new chapter in making civil helicopters more accessible to operators in India," said Sunny Guglani, Head of Airbus Helicopters, India and South Asia.

Peak power demand hovering at 235 GW amid harsh heat wave

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's peak power demand is hovering near the projected 235 GW level in May, following excessive use of cooling appliances such as air-conditioners and desert coolers amid severe heat wave.

According to the Power Ministry data, the peak power demand met or the highest supply in the day had already reached 233 GW on May 6 compared with 221.42 GW a year ago.

Earlier in the month, the Ministry estimated the demand would peak at 235 GW during the daytime, and 225 GW during evening hours in May; and 240 GW during daytime and 235 GW during evening hours in June 2024.

Industry experts opined the demand would increase further due to the rise in the intensity of heat in May as the Southwest Monsoon, which generally brings relief from the scorching summer heat, is likely to hit the Kerala coast on June 1.

Amul goes to U.S., partners Michigan milk producers' body to sell fresh milk

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

GCMMF will handle the marketing and branding of fresh milk products. REUTERS

India's largest dairy cooperative Amul has started selling fresh milk and other products in the United States in partnership with a century old local cooperative body, Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) to sell fresh milk in East Coast and the Midwest markets.

Initially, the supplies will be in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Washington, Dallas, and Texas, which would subsequently be expanded across all the major cities in the U.S.

The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), an umbrella body of district-level milk cooperatives in Gujarat, that markets and sells dairy products under the brand Amul, will handle the marketing and branding of fresh milk products, while milk procurement and processing will be done by the MMPA.

As per details provided, Amul has unveiled its popular range of fresh milk in one-gallon (3.8 litres) and half-a-gallon (1.9 litres) packs under the Amul brand in the U.S.

This includes Amul Gold containing 6% fat, Amul Shakti with 4.5% milk fat, Amul Taaza with 3% milk fat and Amul Slim with 2% milk fat.

'Same as in India'

"It's the same with all compositions as it's in India," said GCMMF Managing Director Jayen Mehta.

GCMMF has been exporting Amul products including paneer; cheese, ice creams, chocolates, and other dairy items to more than 50 countries including in West Asia and Africa, catering to India's sprawling diaspora families.

Targetting the diaspora

But this is the first time, fresh milk procured and processed outside India will be sold under the brand name of Amul in the U.S.

The primary target is the Indian diaspora and Asian communities but eventually, GCMMF wants Amul to become a major dairy player with full range of its products. Moreover, it will also explore options to go in other markets beyond the U.S.

JOHANNESBURG

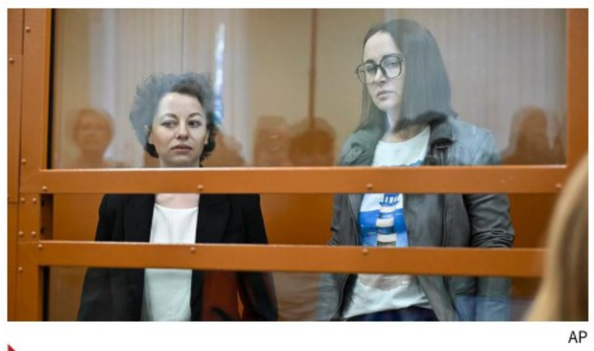
South Africa's top court rules Jacob Zuma cannot compete in the polls

AFP

South Africa's top court ruled on Monday that graft-tainted former President turned firebrand opposition challenger Jacob Zuma is ineligible to compete in next week's general election. The decision will outrage Mr. Zuma's supporters and stoke fears of violent unrest in the run-up to the May 29 poll. AFP

TALLINN

Russian theatre director and playwright go on trial over a play



AP

A Russian court on Monday opened the trial of a theatre director and a playwright accused of advocating terrorism in a play. Director Zhenya Berkovich, and playwright Svetlana Petriychuk have been jailed for over a year. Authorities claim their play *Finist, the Brave Falcon* justifies terrorism, which is a criminal offence in Russia. AP

MANILA

Philippines blames China for loss of giant clams in disputed shoal

AP

Presenting surveillance photographs, the Philippines blamed Chinese fishermen on Monday for a massive loss of giant clams in the disputed Scarborough Shoal controlled by China's coast guard in the South China Sea and called for an international inquiry into the amount of environmental damage in the area. AP

MOSCOW

Russia claims control of Ukrainian stronghold territory in the east

REUTERS

Russia said on Monday its forces had captured the Ukrainian village of Bilogorivka, one of the few remaining settlements in the eastern Lugansk region under Kyiv's control. Lugansk is one of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow claimed to have annexed in 2022 and taking full control of it has been a priority for the Kremlin. AFP

A hardline cleric who had the backing of the establishment

First Vice-President Mohammed Mokhber will assume interim presidential powers and Iran will hold the presidential election on June 28; Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ruled out any disruption in governance, still, it would be hard for the Islamic Republic to fill the vacuum created by the parting of one of the most loyal soldiers of its revolution

Stanly Johny

Ebrahim Raisi, like Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wore a black turban, which means he traced his lineage back to the Prophet Muhammed. Before being elected President in November 2021, he was the chief of Iran's judiciary. A close ally of Mr. Khamenei, President Raisi escalated a crackdown on civil rights at home, strengthened Iran's ties with Russia and China and adopted a much more muscular foreign policy, which saw Tehran launching an unprecedented missile and drone attack towards Israel in April. He was seen as a potential successor to Mr. Khamenei, the most powerful man in the Islamic Republic. But such predictions did not last long.

EBRAHIM RAISI (1960 - 2024)

On Sunday, President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash in the Varzaghan region of East Azerbaijan province.

Born in 1960 in a village near the holy city of Mashhad, Raisi, as a teenager, studied in a Qom seminary. When Iran erupted against the rule of the Shah in the late 1970s, Raisi, like many other seminary students, liberals and leftwing activists, joined the revolution. After the Pahlavi dynasty was overthrown and Iran became an Islamic Republic, he began his judicial career as a prosecutor in the city of Karaj. He moved to the capital in 1985 after he was appointed a deputy prosecutor of Tehran. It was this time Raisi got the attention of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

'Death commission'

After the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88, Khomeini issued secret decrees condemning thousands of political prisoners to death. Then a four-man commission, which is widely known as the "death commission", was set up to carry out the executions. Raisi was reported to be a member of the commission.

Always a loyal ally of the establishment, Raisi held several important positions in Iran's judicial system. From 2004 to 2014, he was the First Deputy Chief Justice. In 2014, he was named the Attorney-General of Iran, a position which he held until 2016. Then Mr. Khamenei appointed him to run the Astan-e Quds-e Razavi (Imam Reza charity foundation), which manages a wide network of businesses and endowments. When he was appointed to the foundation, Mr. Khamenei called Raisi a "trustworthy person with high-profile experience", a rare praise from the Supreme Leader.

Raisi assumed Presidency at a critical juncture for Iran. The country's economy, battered by sanctions, was facing serious challenges. The nuclear deal, which promised removal of sanctions and economic prosperity, had fallen apart. Large-scale protests broke out across the country after Mahsa Amini, 22, died after she was arrested for not following the country's strict hijab rules.

Diplomacy took a backseat during his tenure as Iran stepped up its nuclear programme, started shipping weapons to Russia, and doubled down on its support for non-state militias across West Asia. Maximum resistance was Raisi's motto. And in Iran's clergy-dominated complex power theatre where traditionalists and moderates compete for power and influence, Raisi emerged as a strong President who has the backing of the clerical establishment.

Soldier of revolution

Raisi's death will leave a vacuum in Iran's religious-politico system. In recent years, Iran, unlike any other country, has lost several high profile figures. In January 2020, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a charismatic military commander, was assassinated by the U.S. in Baghdad in an airstrike. In November that year, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on the outskirts of Tehran, reportedly by Israel. After the Hamas-Israel war began on October 7, 2023, Iran lost several senior military leaders. These losses pale in comparison with the death of the President and the Foreign Minister. This is the first time the Islamic Republic is losing a President, sitting or former, to such an accident.

While details are yet to emerge about the crash, the existing geopolitical tensions could fuel speculations about the accident. Iran has to quickly ascertain the reasons behind the crash, and put in place an orderly transition. First Vice President Mohammed Mokhber will assume interim presidential powers and the country will hold the presidential election on June 28. Mr. Khamenei has ruled out any disruption in governance. Still, it would be hard for Iran to fill the vacuum created by the parting of one of the most loyal soldiers of its revolution.

New Taiwan leader urges China to draw down intimidation

Safer future: Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te gives a speech at his inauguration ceremony on Monday in Taipei. GETTY IMAGES

Associated Press
TAIPEI

Taiwan's new President, Lai Ching-te, said in his inauguration speech on Monday that he wants peace with China and urged it to stop its military threats and intimidation of the self-governed island that Beijing claims as its own territory.

"I hope that China will face the reality of (Taiwan)'s existence, respect the choices of the people of Taiwan, and in good faith, choose dialogue over confrontation," Mr. Lai said after being sworn into office.

Mr. Lai pledged to "neither yield nor provoke" Beijing and said he sought peace in relations with China. But he emphasised the island democracy is determined to defend itself "in the face of the many threats and attempts at infiltration from China."

Mr. Lai's party, the Democratic Progressive Party, does not seek independence from China but maintains that Taiwan is already a sovereign nation.

'Fallacy of separatism'

The Chinese office in charge of Taiwan affairs criticised Mr. Lai's inauguration speech as promoting "the fallacy of separatism," inciting confrontation and relying on foreign forces to seek independence.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce on Monday also announced sanctions against Boeing and two other defence companies for arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr. Lai, 64, takes over from Tsai Ing-wen, who led Taiwan through eight years of economic and social development despite the COVID-19 pandemic and China's escalating military threats. Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province and has been upping its threats to annex it by force if necessary.

Mr. Lai is seen as inheriting Ms. Tsai's progressive policies, including universal health care, backing for higher education and support for minority groups, including making Taiwan the first place in Asia to recognise same-sex marriages.

Mr. Lai accepted congratulations from fellow politicians and delegations from the 12 nations that maintain official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, as well as politicians from the U.S., Japan and various European states.

Plea for warrant against Netanyahu, Hamas leaders at ICC

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

The crimes charged were committed against the Palestinian civilian population pursuant to State policy, the ICC prosecutor said

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on Monday applied for arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top Hamas leaders on suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The landmark request was greeted with outrage in Israel, whose Foreign Minister Israel Katz slammed the application as "a historical disgrace that will be remembered forever."

'Starvation', 'murder'

Prosecutor Karim Khan said he was seeking warrants against Mr. Netanyahu and Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes including "starvation", "wilful killing", and "extermination and/or murder".

"We submit that the crimes against humanity charged were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Palestinian civilian population pursuant to State policy. These crimes, in our assessment, continue to this day," Mr. Khan said in reference to Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Gallant.

The charges laid against the Hamas leaders including Yahya Sinwar, the head of the movement in Gaza, and Ismail Haniyeh, the movement's political chief, include "extermination", "rape and other acts of sexual violence", and "taking hostages as a war crime".

Mr. Khan alleged that the two Hamas leaders, plus Mohammed Deif, who heads Hamas's armed wing, were "criminally responsible for the killing of hundreds of Israeli civilians" during the attacks of October 7, 2023.

Hamas said it "strongly condemns" the ICC prosecutor's application for arrest warrants against it leaders, but said it supported the ICC's move against Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Gallant.

The ICC prosecutor in 2021 opened a probe into Israel as well as Hamas and other armed Palestinian groups for possible war crimes in the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Khan has said this investigation now "extends to the escalation of hostilities and violence since the attacks that took place on October 7, 2023".

ICC judges will now decide whether the application meets the threshold for the warrants to be formally issued – a process that could take some weeks or even months.

Symbolic in nature

If granted, the warrant means that technically any of the 124 ICC member states would be obliged to arrest Mr. Netanyahu if he travelled there.

But while the warrant could complicate some travel for Mr. Netanyahu, the court has no mechanism to enforce its warrants, relying on its members to play ball.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No: Hiring_TechAst_DataAnlys4, Dated : 15.05.2024.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hiring of Man Power (Technicians/Wiremen) for technical assistance in S&T maintenance activities and Data Analysts for 24x7 operation of Test Room in Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for a period of 24 months.	Rs. 4,15,59,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 06-06-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Bengaluru

PUB/92/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

TENDER NOTICE No. 17/2024 Dated : 15-05-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.

Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.
L8236748B	Crane mounted truck, AMC for 5 years after 2 years warranty period.	01 No.

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 10-06-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/97/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | southwesternrailway_swr | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/7/2024 Dated : 15.05.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Providing and Relaying of BWSSB pipelines of dia 700 mm, 400 mm and 300 mm for construction of Bengaluru Cantonment South side station basement on PF 1 side. **(Tender Ref. No. BNC-STN-DEVELOPMENT-01)**	Rs. 3,04,64,542/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 05-06-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/88/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No: Railnet_FOIS_MP_Hiring, Dated : 15.05.2024.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hiring of Highly Skilled, Semi-Skilled & Unskilled manpower for Maintenance and monitoring of Railnet/FOIS network along with provision of new connectivity in DRM building associated offices, Railway colony at Bengaluru & Yesvantpur for a period of 2 years.	Rs. 88,80,408/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 06-06-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Bengaluru

PUB/93/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Letter No.-01/Stha Dhruv Heli.-01/2022-(Part-I)-2763
Ranchi, Date:-15/05/2024

GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
DEPARTMENT OF HOME, PRISON & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

NOTICE
Recruitment of Helicopter Pilots

The Govt. of Jharkhand invites application from Indian Nationals for immediate enrolment as Helicopter Pilot, preferably Dhruv endorsed, on contract basis, Attractive terms and competitive compensation package will be offered.

Requirements-CPL(H) or ATPL(H) holder having at least 2000 Hrs. on helicopters including 500 Hrs. PIC experience and minimum 200 Hrs. on multiengine plus 50 hours of night flying preferably with IR and fit in current medical assessment. Pilots with PIC on Dhruv Helicopter would be given preference.

Employment-Selected candidates will be employed on contract basis initially for a period of three years.

Vacancy- Pilot- 01 (One)

Pay & Allowances- Pilot-5 Lakh per Month (Maximum)

Application- Curriculum Vitae including details of aviation experience, valid license & passport, current medical assessment along with recent passport size photograph must reach office of the **Principal Secretary, Home Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Project Bhawan, Dhruwa, Ranchi-834004 (Jharkhand)** by speed post or through email address: **homejharkhand@gmail.com** within 15(fifteen) days from date of publication of notice. Economy class air travel expense by shortest route for called candidates will be subject to reimbursement. Government reserves all rights of selection and recruitment.

sd/- Under Secretary,
Department of Home, Prison & Disaster Management,
Govt. of Jharkhand.

PR 324980 Home (24-25)_D

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **Mr. MANJUNATH .K.C,** aged about 34 years, S/o. Chikkanna, No. F-91, Pratham Rohith Ragahvi Apt., GF-2, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Bikasipura, K.S. Layout, Bengaluru-560111, (Mob: 8660010546) had lost the original **Allotment Letter bearing No. BDA/ADM/DS-2/36/BSK/5/2000-01, dated: 26th December-2000,** issued by the BDA with respect to **Site No. 36, BSK 5th Stage (Sy. No. 3 Bikasipura) Bengaluru,** now comes under the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West: 9.14 Meters and North to South: 12.19 Meters, ad-measuring 111.41 Square Meters.

Towards loss of aforesaid original Allotment Letter, my client had also lodged E-mail complaint before the Police, vide Lost Report No. 1055217/2024, dated: 16/05/2024. But till date my client unable to secure/trace out the same.

If at all anyone found the aforesaid original Allotment Letter, kindly handover the same either to my client or the undersigned.

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building, Brugual Mutt Cross Road
V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004. Mobile : 9972529424

Bengaluru Date : 20-05-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI.N.KRISHNAPPA** S/o late Narayanappa, residing at: No.83, 2nd Main Road, Ramakrishnanagar, Bangalore – 560078.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.71, PID No.49-38-71, measuring East to West 65ft and North to South 20ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Rama Krishna Matt Layout, Gavipura Guttahalli, Kempegowdanagar, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Private Property
West by : Road
North by : Property of Venkataswami
South by : Property of Ayyanna

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

HIGH PRAISE

It's scary bowling to Abhishek: Sunrisers skipper Cummins

K.R. DEEPAK

Explosive opening batter Abhishek Sharma received the biggest compliment of his life from Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins. "Abhishek is amazing. I wouldn't want to bowl to him. It's scary as he plays with freedom, not only against pacers but also against spinners," Cummins said.

BANG BANG

SRH becomes team with most sixes in a T20 tournament

M. VEDHAN

Sunrisers Hyderabad surpassed Royal Challengers Bengaluru to become the team with the most sixes in a T20 tournament. SRH's tally is at 160 while RCB has a total of 157 sixes, which has also come in the 2024 IPL. The other teams in the list are CSK (145 in IPL 2018), Surrey (144 in T20 Blast 2023), and KKR (143 in IPL 2019).

GETTING A CHANCE

Swapnil contemplated quitting cricket until RCB picked him

K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

When Swapnil Singh went unsold in the initial rounds of the auction, he felt it was time to end his 18-year-old career. "When I missed out, I thought that's it. I thought it was all over. I thought I would end my career after playing the next season because I did not want to keep playing all my life," Swapnil told RCB Bold Diaries.

BROADCASTER CLARIFIES

Didn't air any private conversation involving Rohit, says Star Sports

K. MURALI KUMAR

Star Sports on Monday denied airing the audio of any personal conversation involving Rohit Sharma. "The clip, taken during training on May 16, for which Star Sports had authorised access, momentarily showed the senior player in conversation with his friends. No audio from this conversation was broadcast."

Top-heavy KKR, SRH collide for a place in the final

With the openers delivering big for the Kolkata and Hyderabad outfits, the difference might come down to the spin department; Gurbaz likely to replace Salt in Shreyas' side for the marquee fixture

IPL-17

S. Dipak Ragav
AHMEDABAD

Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad kicked off their IPL campaign against each other in a high-scoring thriller in which the former prevailed by four runs. The match was a sneak peek into the game style the two outfits would employ this season, prioritising a no-holds-barred approach to batting.

Nearly two months after that game, KKR and SRH – who finished first and second in the group stages, respectively – will square off again in Qualifier-1 of the IPL playoffs at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday.

Climactic phase: It's down to the final four as IPL 2024 reaches the home stretch. VIJAY SONEJI

Narine influence

Two-time champion KKR was the first to qualify for the playoffs and seal a top-two berth, posting nine wins.

The team's inspired decision to let Sunil Narine open the innings has worked wonders, as the West Indian all-rounder has been at his marauding best.

Narine and his opening partner Phil Salt - the top two run-getters for the side - have set the tone by giving blazing starts.

It has allowed the middle and lower order the freedom not to hold back.

Even as the batters have hogged the limelight, the bowling attack has been equally effective. The spin duo of Narine (15 wickets, Eco: 6.63) and Varun Chakravarthy (18, 8.34) have led the way, giving crucial breakthroughs while being economical.

The only area of concern for Shreyas Iyer's men will be Salt's absence, who has returned to England for national duty. Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz is set to take his place in the line-up but hasn't played a game this season. KKR's last two games have been washed out, and it will be interesting to see if the long break – the team last played on May 11 – will hurt its momentum.

Meanwhile, Sunrisers sealed a place in the top-two following its four-wicket win over Punjab Kings on Sunday. Like KKR, SRH has also piggybacked on its openers, Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma – who have scored 1000 runs between them – to reach the playoffs.

However, bowling remains a concern for the 2016 champion as it has the second-worst economy rate during the middle and death-overs.

There have been four totals of 200 and above in six matches at Ahmedabad, and Tuesday's contest promises to be another high-scoring one in the battle between the two most destructive batting units.

Today's match

QUALIFIER 1

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers

Ahmedabad, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 26
KKR 17 | SRH 9

PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by 4 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

Top of the charts

ORANGE
Virat Kohli (RCB)
Matches: 14
Runs: 708 | HS: 113*
SR: 155.60

PURPLE
Harshal Patel (PBKS)
Matches: 14
Wickets: 24 | BB: 3/15
Econ: 9.73

Stats after the league stage

People don't think commentators can be good cricketers, but I've done it

The veteran wicketkeeper-batter — who has had his most explosive season with the bat — says not many would have gone behind the mike, go on to play in a World Cup and have a good IPL

INTERVIEW

Dinesh Karthik

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In Royal Challengers Bengaluru's rise from the dead – winning six matches on the bounce to storm into the playoffs – Dinesh Karthik's has been an integral role. His 315 runs have come at a strike-rate of 195.65, his best across 17 seasons. The veteran wicket-keeper batter spoke to *The Hindu* ahead of Wednesday's Eliminator against Rajasthan Royals.

The trigger: Karthik said the game against Sunrisers turned things around for Royal Challengers. R.V. MOORTHY

Is there one single moment that helped change things?

I thought the SRH [Sunrisers Hyderabad] game midway... they scored 280 [287]. The way we came back with the bat [262] gave us confidence. Post that, we kind of turned it around. Even though the next result didn't go our way [one-run loss to KKR], it worked for us as a team.

Did the freedom of playing every game as if there was nothing to lose help?

Definitely not going to say no. It was a place where you had nothing to lose. So why not do things differently. Though, you have to back that up with skill. It'd look rather silly if you don't pull it off. You could definitely lose a lot of your pride and dignity.

We always knew we were a team with good skillsets. Though, there is no point having that in the shed and not bringing it to the ground. The support staff encouraged us to do that and the senior players have followed it up with their work on and off the field.

IPL-17 has been one of your best seasons. What have you done differently?

It is about understanding what the bowlers are trying to do when I come in and trying to counter that. Getting fitter and stronger are two things I have done off the field. I came in with this taboo of a commentator being a player. There was a lot of scepticism. That really challenged me. Not many would have been a commentator, gone on to represent their country in a World Cup and then had a good IPL season. Last year, it wasn't a good IPL. So it was also about responding to all the questions that were asked.

Has commentary helped your cricket?

Yes. To the point where I realised that you don't need to take what's being said about you too seriously. A lot of things are said in jest, and are not personal attacks.

And you rub shoulders with the likes of Michael Atherton, Nasser Hussain, Ian Bishop and others. You not only learn about cricket but also about how they handle life. It increases your worldly knowledge and also helps elevate your self-esteem when you are talking to the world.

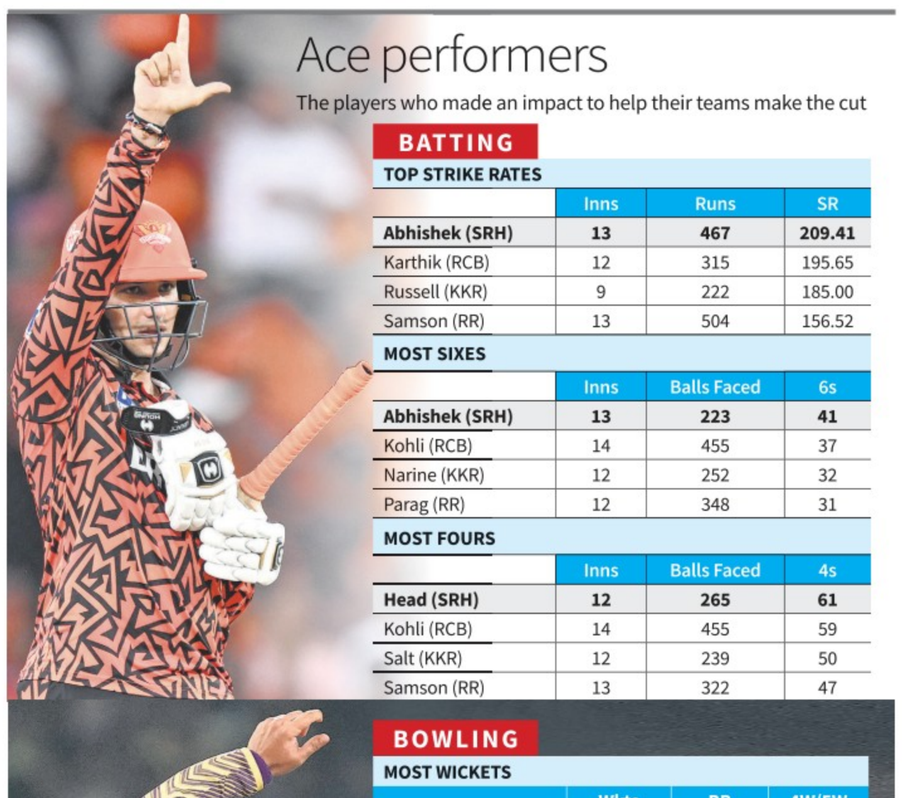
What drives you as a player? Do you take inspiration from other sportspersons?

Michael Jordan's *The Last Dance* inspired me quite a bit. The reason to play sport changes at different points. For the longest time, it was about representing India and becoming the best wicketkeeper-batter. There were many who felt I couldn't make a comeback and I pushed myself for that. Last season, it didn't go well, so I wanted to finish on a good note. People don't think commentators can be good cricketers, but today, I have done what I have done.

I don't say a lot of things outside, but internalise and push myself. Like, on a day when I am doing commentary, I wake up at 6 and run. There is no need for that because I just have to talk about the game. But if I have to play IPL, I have to run.

If RCB goes all the way, will you play one more year?

It's tricky. I don't want to think too far ahead. I know what my endgame is and I will leave it at that.



Compiled by SANKAR NARAYANAN E.H.

INBRIEF

Liverpool confirms Slot as manager in place of Klopp

Liverpool has appointed Feyenoord's Arne Slot as manager to replace Juergen Klopp next season, the club announced on Monday. Slot, who has been in charge of the Dutch team since 2021, won the Eredivisie title in 2022-23 along with the KNVB Cup this season, while Feyenoord also reached the Europa Conference League final in his first season at the club.

India blanks Jordan in Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup

Samarth Sahita and Aaradhya Kshitij helped India beat Jordan 3-0 in a group-B league match of Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 boys tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Monday. India will play Indonesia and Hong Kong over the next two days in the league phase. The top two teams from four groups will qualify for the knock-out stage.

The results (league): India bt Jordan 3-0 (Samarth Sahita bt Amir Jaber 6-3, 6-2; Aaradhya Kshitij bt Malek Al-Qurneh 6-1, 6-2; Aaradhya & Samarth bt Malek & Amir 6-4, 3-6, [10-3]).

Brest secures Champions League qualification

Surprise package Brest secured Champions League qualification for the first time in its history after pipping Lille to a top-three place in the Ligue 1 on the final night of the French season at Toulouse on Sunday. Brest began the day in fourth place, behind Lille on goal difference. The club from Brittany eased to a 3-0 victory away at Toulouse thanks to second-half goals by Mahdi Camara, Jordan Amavi and Kenny Lala. It then needed a favour in Lille, and got one as the home side drew 2-2 with Nice.

Aryan stumbles at the final hurdle in Jamaica

Aryan Shah was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by third seed Kiranpal Pannu of New Zealand in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Kingston, Jamaica.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Qualifier 1, Star Sports 1 , & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
USA vs Bangladesh: 1st T20I, FanCode, 8.30 p.m.

Creditable foray: The quartet of Amoj Jacob, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Muhammed Ajmal, and Subha Venkatesan with its reward. SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

Indian mixed 4x400m team sets National record

The timing puts India in the 21st place in World Athletics' Road to Paris list while the aim was to be either in the 15th or 16th spot

ASIAN RELAYS

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

India's mixed 4x400 relay team set a National record while winning the gold medal at the inaugural edition of Asian Relay Championships here on Monday but missed the target of entering the Paris Olympics qualification bracket.

The quartet of Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes 14.12 to better the 3:14.34 time that was clocked by the Indian team while winning silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

Sri Lanka finished second with a time of 3:17.00 while Vietnam was third with 3:18.45.

Monday's timing will put India in the 21st place – from earlier 23rd – in the Road to Paris list of World Athletics while the aim was to be either in the 15th or 16th spot.

Difficult position

India, thus, is in a difficult position to make the Olympics cut as only sixteen teams will compete in the mixed 4x400m relay event in Paris.

India will compete in the 4x400m relay races on Day 2 on Tuesday.

Deepthi wins 400m with world record time

What a run! Deepthi also set an Asian mark on her way to the gold. FLICKR/PARALYMPICS

PARA ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
KOBE

Deepthi Jeevanji clinched gold with a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category race at the World Para Athletics Championships here on Monday.

Deepthi bettered American Breanna Clark's time of 55.12s set during last year's edition in Paris. Deepthi had qualified for the final after winning her heats in an Asian record time of 56.18s on Sunday. The T20 category is meant for athletes who have intellectual impairment.

Yogesh Kathuniya claimed a silver in men's F56 category discus with an effort of 41.80 metres.

The F56 category is meant for athletes who compete in field events from a seated position. Different athletes, including those with amputations and spinal cord injuries compete in this class.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

No sweat for Talent CA
Talent Cricket Academy cruised past Whitefield CA by eight wickets in the 7th Save Water Cup, organised by Gopalan Sports Cricket Academy here.
The scores: Under-14: Whitefield CA 87/9 in 19.2 overs (Medha Venkat 25) lost to Talent CA 91/2 in 15.1 overs (Kapishraj 33, Shamanth 26, Sean 3/17).
PVV 98/2 in 15.5 overs (Aagneya 31, Tejas 3/15) bt CIOC 94/9 in 20 overs (Debraj 56).
Under-12: Kreeda Kshetra 124/9 in 20 overs (Tanshh 50) bt DPS East 102 in 19.1 overs (Hritvik 37).
SJBHS 154/7 in 20 overs (Rana Pratap 3/25) bt TCA 29 in 10.3 overs (Aadith Abishek 3/7).
Six Academy 212/6 in 20 overs (Tanush Mishra 53) bt TSF 76/6 in 20 overs.
WCA 122/5 in 20 overs (Kriday 41, Vivaan 30) lost to MPCA 123/4 in 20 overs (Ishaanth 36).

Big win for DPS (South)
Viresh Moktan scored 56 as DPS (South) defeated Kreeda Kshetra by 101 runs in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament here.
The scores: DPS South 263/7 in 30 overs (Viresh Moktan 56, Debraj Nandi 54, Hannan Zaki 52) bt Kreeda Kshetra 162/8 in 30 overs (D.U. Tanav 26, M. Akarsh 4/33); DPS East 168/7 in 28 overs (Nipun 45, Vastvik 31, Kaushik Neergunda 26, Pratik Jadhav 4/18) bt South Cricketers 77 in 19.3 overs (Kaushik Neergunda 3/8).

Xander Schauffele wins his maiden Major with a record score

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Agence France-Presse
LOUISVILLE

Xander Schauffele outdueled Bryson DeChambeau and Viktor Hovland down the back nine on Sunday to win the PGA Championship, capturing his first Major triumph and snapping a two-year victory drought.

Third-ranked Schauffele, the reigning Olympic champion, won a tension-packed drama over the closing holes, firing a six-under par 65 to finish 72 holes at Valhalla on 21-under 263, the lowest winning score in Major golf history. Victory was worth $3.33 million to Schauffele.

That was good enough for a one-stroke victory over fellow-American DeChambeau, the 2020 US Open champion who fired a closing 64, with Norway's Hovland, last year's PGA runner-up, third on 266 after shooting a 66.

Memorable victory: Schauffele either led or shared the lead after each round to win the Wanamaker Trophy. GETTY IMAGES

The record low under-par winning score had been 20-under, done four times, most recently by Australian Cameron Smith at the 2022 British Open.

Schauffele, who had 12 prior top-10 major finishes without a victory, had not won an event since the 2022 Scottish Open, having had 19 top-10 finishes during his drought. "I was kind of emotional after the putt lipped in," Schauffele said. "It has been a while since I won. I told myself this is my opportunity so let's capture it."

DeChambeau rolled in a birdie putt from just beyond 10 feet at the par-5 18th hole, the ball barely dropping in, to match Schauffele for the lead at 20-under.

Schauffele had a chance to win with a birdie at 18 but his tee shot was in the left rough on the edge of a fairway bunker. He calmly blasted his second shot just short of the green into the fairway, 36 yards from the hole.

Schauffele dropped his approach six feet from the hole and the ball made a slight roll on the edge as it fell in to give him a wire-to-wire triumph. Not since Phil Mickelson in 2005 at Baltusrol had a player birdied the 72nd hole to win the Wanamaker Trophy.

Final scores: 263: Xander Schauffele (USA) 62-68-68-65; **264:** Bryson DeChambeau (USA) 68-65-67-64; **266:** Viktor Hovland (Nor) 68-66-66-66; **269:** Collin Morikawa (USA) 66-65-67-71, Thomas Detry (Bel) 66-67-70-66; **270:** Shane Lowry (Irl) 69-69-62-70, Justin Rose (Eng) 70-67-64-69.

Zverev pockets a sixth Masters crown

ITALIAN OPEN

Reuters
ROME

Alexander Zverev warmed up for the French Open by winning his sixth Masters title when he beat first-time finalist Nicolas Jarry 6-4, 7-5 in the Italian Open showpiece on Sunday.

It was a second title in Rome for Zverev, having won his first in 2017 when he was 20, and his first trophy since he broke his ankle in the French Open semifinals in 2022. The 27-year-old will also climb to fourth in the rankings.

"Obviously winning my first ever (Masters title) here in Rome and winning my first after my injury also in Rome, so Rome is a very special place for me," third seed Zverev said.

Chilean Jarry, who had beaten Stefanos Tsitsipas and Tommy Paul to reach the final, could not break Zverev after the German won 95% of his first-serve points.

Zverev. AFP

The aggressive Jarry had relied on his big serve to reach the final but Zverev was up to the task, absorbing the pressure

However, Jarry managed to save three match points before Zverev finally clinched victory in Rome, where he dropped only one set in the tournament.

Carlsen emerges champion of Casablanca Chess Variant

Sports Bureau

Magnus Carlsen won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament in Casablanca (Morocco) on Sunday. The World No. 1 from Norway finished the four-player event with 4.5 points from six rounds.

Anand third

In the tournament, in which the players were required to make moves from certain positions onwards from well-known games from the past, Hikaru Nakamura of the United States was the runner-up with 3.5 points.

Viswanathan Anand was third. The five-time World champion from India scored three points while Bassem Amin of Egypt finished last with one point.

The final day featured games from the World championship matches between Alexander Alekhine and Max Euwe (1935), Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov (1987) and Anna Ushenina and Hou Yifan (2013).

On top: Carlsen finished the four-player event with 4.5 points from six rounds. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Carslen said he would like to play the format again.

"With one exception in game two, all the positions were very rich with lots of play," he said.

"It doesn't really matter if you are playing white or black, because you know that the position is equal and there are chances for both sides.

"It is also a lot of fun to end up in positions that I don't play too often. I enjoyed it a lot."

India set to lose Asian Games medal after Parveen's suspension

BOXING

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Following boxer Parveen Hooda's 22-month suspension for a whereabouts failure, India is set to lose a bronze medal from the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The International Testing Agency (ITA), the organisation responsible for results management, has confirmed Parveen's suspension until July 16, 2025 for three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period as defined in article 2.4 of the International Boxing Association's anti-doping rules.

"In addition to the period of ineligibility, the athlete's results obtained between December 11, 2022 until May 17, 2024 are disqualified," said ITA in a statement. While confirming that Parveen would lose her Asian Games medal, Boxing Federation of India (BFI) secretary Hemanta Kalita said: "The ITA reduced her suspension by eight months, but cancelled her results during that period as well."

Parveen. FILE PHOTO

The BFI has decided to field Jaismine Lamboria in the women's 57kg in the last Olympic qualifier, starting in Bangkok from Friday, in its bid to reclaim the quota place.

Four-star Sorloth spearheads Villarreal's draw with Madrid

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
MADRID

Barcelona routed Rayo Vallecano 3-0 to secure the lucrative second place in the Spanish league on Sunday, while champion Real Madrid drew 4-4 at Villarreal with Norway striker Alexander Sorloth scoring all four goals for the host.

There won't be much left to fight for in the final round next weekend as Cadiz became the last team to be relegated after being held to a 0-0 draw at home against Las Palmas.

Real Sociedad secured the last Europa League spot with a 2-0 win at Real Betis, which was left with a place in the Europa Conference League.

Pedri scored twice and Robert Lewandowski once for Barcelona, which kept a four-point gap to Catalan rival Girona with a round to go. Girona won 3-1 at Valencia for its first-ever third place finish in the Spanish league. Atletico Madrid will finish fourth after a 1-4 loss to Osasuna.

Scintillating show: Sorloth was unstoppable against champion Real Madrid. REUTERS

The results: LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 3, Pedri 72, 75) bt Rayo Vallecano 0; Granada 1 (Mendez 87) lost to Celta Vigo 2 (Larsen 61, Bamba 63); Valencia 1 (Pepelu 84-pen) lost to Girona 3 (Savinho 32, Dovbyk 58, Gasiorowski 67-og).
Atletico Madrid 1 (Morata 55) lost to Osasuna 4 (Garcia 26, 64, Oroz 52, Torro 88); Cadiz 0 drew with Las Palmas 0; Real Betis 0 lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Mendez 5, Merino 42); Mallorca 2 (Larin 29, Darder 83) drew with Almeria 2 (Arribas 41, Langa 66).

Villarreal 4 (Sorloth 39, 48, 52, 56) drew with Real Madrid 4 (Guler 14, 45+2, Joselu 30, Vazquez 40); Athletic Bilbao 2 (Garcia 17, Muniain 19) bt Sevilla 0.

Serie A: Inter Milan 1 (Dumfries 87) drew with Lazio 1 (Kamada 32); Udinese 1 (Samardzic 90+14-pen) drew with Empoli 1 (Niang 90-pen).

Roma 1 (Lukaku 79) bt Genoa 0.